

Greenbelt News Review

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

Volume 41, Number 18

GREENBELT, MARYLAND

Thursday, March 23, 1978

CDBG Grant to Improve City Playgrounds and Walkways

by Leta Mach

At the March 6 meeting, the City Council directed its staff to prepare a detailed list of equipment needed for playground improvements, placing particular emphasis on the North End. These improvements would be funded by a \$30,000 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) from Prince Georges County. The neighborhood which has been designated for use of these funds is primarily that part of the city originally owned by the federal government. Council had previously received the report of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board (PRAB) on these improvements at the February 15 meeting.

After a public hearing, PRAB recommended that 50% of the funds be used to improve existing playgrounds, 35% of the funds be utilized to create "a large, comprehensive playground in the North End," and 15% of the funds be used to provide equipment for the elderly. Because many residents felt North End had been "shortchanged," the board asked that North End be given priority. PRAB also requested that, if possible, part of the \$100,000 federal grant for street improvements be used on bike trails, underpasses, sidewalks, and lighting and improvements for the internal walkways.

The recommendations of the Park and Recreation Advisory Board have been reviewed by Hank Irving, recreation director; Buddy Attick, public works director; Dennis Doornkamp, parks superintendent; and James Giese, city manager. Many problems were noted with the proposal for alternative uses of the \$100,000 federal grant for street improvements. Any such change would first require the authorization of the Prince Georges County Council.

Because most of the internal walkway system is on GHI property, the city does not have jurisdiction in that matter. Lights, installed by Pepco, could be added in the city parks. However, CDBG funds could not be used to cover the additional operating costs, these would have to come out of the city budget. Although desirable, constructing sidewalks in many areas would be difficult because of the narrow rights-of-way. City staff has suggested that future CDBG funds be requested to construct an underpass. One under Hillside Road between Laurel Hill and Research is being considered as a portion of an extended pedestrian-bicycle path to North End school. Within the CDBG neighborhood, few bike trails could be developed. An extension of the Lakewood path to Hillside and Northway and eventually to the landfill is already partially funded in this year's budget. To extend the Lakewood path to North End school would also be possible.

The PRAB recommendation that North End be given priority has received staff support. However, the staff rejected the recommendation that "a large, comprehensive playground" be established in the North End because there is no suitable site for such a playground. Possible sites are either too small, too close to houses, or not centrally located. The staff suggested that the funds be used instead to upgrade many smaller playgrounds.

Senior Citizen Equipment

Although sympathetic to the request for equipment for senior citizens, the staff is afraid that not much equipment can be made available for the elderly to actually use. Children might use such equipment as picnic tables and park benches more frequently. One pro-

See PLAYGROUNDS p. 5, col. 3

WHAT GOES ON

Sun., March 26, 7 a.m. Easter Sunrise Service, Lake Park
Mon., March 27, 9 a.m. SHARP, Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Greenbelt Lake Park. Rain Location - Youth Center
7-9 p.m., Spring Leisure Time Activities Registration, Springhill Lake Recreation Center
Tue., March 28, 7-9 p.m., Spring Leisure Time Activities Registration, Greenbelt Youth Center
8 p.m. Twin Pines Annual Meeting & Elections, Municipal Building
Wed., March 29, 3-5 p.m., Spring Leisure Time Activities Registration, Greenbelt Youth Center
8 p.m. City Council Workshop, Municipal Building

Dems Slate Meeting

A meeting of the Prince Georges Democratic Committee will be held Tuesday, March 28 at 7:30 p.m. in the Park and Planning Auditorium at 6600 Kenilworth Avenue in Riverdale.

The filling of various vacancies in the precincts will be discussed. All persons interested in serving as Democratic Precinct Chairmen or Election Judges are invited to attend. A proposed campaign workshop is also on the agenda.

Easter Egg Hunt

On Monday, March 27, boys and girls, pre-school through sixth grade, are invited to participate in the Easter Egg Hunt at the Greenbelt Lake Park at 9 a.m. Hidden in the eggs are many special prizes that have been provided by Greenbelt Consumer Services, McDonalds, Ginos, Beltway Roy Rogers, and Pappy's.

Following the hunt, at 9:45 a.m., "Snakes and Stuff" will present a live reptile show on the bandstand. In case of rain, all activities will be held at the Greenbelt Youth Center on the same schedule.

LUCKY LEAVES - 4H

by Sheila Maffay

The Greenbelt Lucky Leaves, led by Sarah Brown and Joan McFarland, have been divided into several special interest categories. The cooking group, which recently cooked an Italian dinner includes: Leslie Bracken, Sheila Maffay, Kelly Jones and Junior leader Joanne Capostosto. The crafts group includes Maureen McEvoy, Eileen Pisani and Lisa White. The wood-working group includes: John Capostosto, Daniel Brown, Mike Kellher and Junior leader Billy Capostosto. The sewing group includes Karen Havekost, Rosie O'Keefe, Helen McFarland and Junior leader Jackie McFarland. The group enjoys different interesting activities, and plans to have a pot luck dinner in the near future.

Twin Pines Seeking New Home in Center

by Linda Orenstein

Twin Pines Savings and Loan Association's need for a new location was an issue raised for discussion at the Monday, February 27 council meeting by Peter Waters, an attorney and the President of the Board of Directors of Twin Pines. Council passed a motion which recommended that this request be sent to APB (Advisory Planning Board) and PRAB (Park and Recreation Advisory Board) for their consideration.

Waters related that Twin Pines, the first mortgage market in Greenbelt, which began in 1948, regards itself as a community institution and would like to remain situated in the Center if at all possible. He indicated that the Association would prefer to be its own landlord but would consider the leasing of a new site. The two parcels under consideration are the piece of land, owned by the City of Greenbelt, adjacent to the Suburban Trust Bank at the west end of the shopping center, and the open space next to the beauty shop and in front of the shoe repair shop, a site which is owned by the shopping center landlord.

The shopping center is presently for sale making it difficult for Twin Pines to determine with whom they would be negotiating. In addition, the Center property is all under Rural Planned Community zoning and both parcels would have to be rezoned "commercial" before Twin Pines could move its operation to either location.

The Association now conducts its business within an area of 600 square feet. It is growing at a rate of 30 percent yearly and operates in smaller quarters than do most branches of savings and loan associations. If it were to relocate to the parcel next to the bank, a one-story building would be constructed using 3000 square feet. The area fronting the shoe repair shop would only afford 1500 square feet and the structure would consist of two stories. John Overton, an Architect design consultant, appeared with Waters at the council meeting and presented conceptual plans for the two-story building which would be modified for one-story if necessary.

The facade of the building would conform with that of the surrounding architecture. The amount of net usable space, not including corridors would be 3000 square feet. The first floor would house four teller stations which would later expand to six; a lobby, a private office and loan area, and space for other offices. The upper floor would accommodate the accounting department and any remaining space would be subleased or would possibly be utilized as community meeting rooms.

Leo Gerton, the manager of High's, spoke at the meeting expressing his feeling that the move of Twin Pines from the Center would be a great loss. Gerton made reference to an idea that had surfaced several years ago which would involve the Center businesses banding together to obtain a government loan to buy the shopping center. He deplored the idea of businesses playing "musical chairs" with space in the Center and advocated that Twin Pines be allowed to continue to grow within the heart of Greenbelt.

CENTER SCHOOL PTA

Center School's PTA meeting has been postponed until Tuesday, April 4.

PARKWAY OVERPASS VOTE LEAVES COUNCIL WITH TOUGH QUESTIONS

by Elaine Skolnik

The news was not all that good at Monday's City Council meeting. The big blow was the refusal by Phase I Greenbriar homeowners to grant an easement for an overpass that would connect east and west Greenbelt and provide a safe means for walkers and bicyclists to cross the Baltimore-Washington Parkway. Disconcerting also was the report that although last year's swimming pool rates were increased substantially, the pool had its largest operating deficit since the season pass rates were initiated. Next Wednesday, March 29, council will meet in a workshop session to discuss both these matters in depth.

Overpass

Some 166 condominium owners voted on the overpass at the annual meeting of Greenbriar Phase I on March 15. 18.2% were in favor and 47.7% against granting an easement at the preferred location between 7716 and 7718 Hanover Parkway. Approval of 75% of the 252 homeowners in Phase I was required to grant the easement.

The next move will be up to council. They can opt for condemnation proceedings or locate the overpass at Mandan Road, a less desirable site. Meanwhile, council was faced with the immediate problem of what to tell federal highway officials at a meeting held today. It decided in a four to one vote to relay to the officials that council reaffirms its desire to secure a crossing at Gardenway and will continue to pursue a crossing at this point."

Councilman Richard Castaldi opposed the motion because he thought "it was working toward condemnation . . . "My concern," he said, "is condemnation in a residential neighborhood . . . I have seen other communities torn apart when another agency says we have the best route for you , and we used to object to that . . . the best route isn't always the best." Castaldi felt, "We should be happy to have a bridge anywhere."

Mayor Richard Pilski emphasized that in voting for the motion he was not voting in any way for condemnation. "I supported the motion," he said, "because I wanted it placed on the agenda for the next meeting."

Councilman Thomas White, who authored the motion, pointed out that the city staff, council and citizens had evaluated the sites and agreed upon the best location. "Government," he said, "has the responsibility to locate the overpass in the proper place . . . I don't feel that a particular group should have veto power as to the best route if it's for the public welfare and good. That's what condemnation is for."

Councilman Charles Schwan agreed, stating that "the city has the responsibility for placing the overpass in the safest place . . . If condemnation is necessary, then we ought to have guts enough to use it."

Schwan felt the facts contained in a letter written to the city by Eleanor Roosevelt student Carl Choper, chairman of the site selection subcommittee of the PTSA, were significant. Choper wrote that, while a bridge at Mandan Road would be used, most of the students crossing at Gardenway would continue to do so; therefore, "the preferred route would still be much better".

This conclusion was based on a survey taken on March 20 of Greenbelt students, which revealed that 26% of the students would always use a bridge at Mandan Road, 19% would use it most of the time, 30% occasionally, and 25% never. When not using the overpass, 47% said they would use the highway bridge that students presently cross at Route 193 (Greenbelt Road), 39% said they would cross the surface of the Parkway, many specified at Gardenway, and 9% said they would never walk, that they would use the Route 193 bridge unless they were in a hurry, or that they only wanted a bridge at Gardenway.

Swimming Pool

Council may have to wrestle with the question of whether or not to raise or lower pool rates. City Manager James K. Giese reports that while rates were increased substantially last year, revenues increased only slightly because of a decline in passes sold. Operating

costs also zoomed as a result of increased maintenance expenses and higher water and chemical costs.

With respect to the decrease in the purchase of family season passes - from 428 in 1976 to 358 in 1977 — Giese speculated that "families with older children who had regularly purchased season passes decided that with the increased cost and reduced family use, the purchase of a season pass was no longer justifiable."

Giese was pessimistic about the pool's ability to operate in the black because of the competition offered by the new Maryland National Capital Park and Planning Commission's (MNCPPC) Calvert Pool. It is expected that non-residents, who have supported the Greenbelt pool to a considerable extent, will be attracted to the new pool where the family non-resident pass costs the same as at Greenbelt pool and the daily admissions for non-resident adults and children costs less. Daily admission for Greenbelt adults at the MNCPPC pool are slated to be the same; for Greenbelt children it will be 25 cents less.

Giese and Recreation Director Hank Irving offered several proposals to council for consideration. They include a cheaper price for couples without children, a reduced non-resident fee lower than that of MNCPPC, a change in daily admission rates which are higher than MNCPPC's, a reduced rate for Greenbelt National Park campers, a reduced daily admission fee upon payment of a one-time membership fee (with the purchase, for example, of a \$5.00 pass, a child might be admitted for 25 cents less), and an increase in swimming lesson fees which, according to the staff, are quite reasonable as compared to those in other pools.

N.O.W. Consciousness Gr'p

The Northern Prince Georges chapter of the National Organization for Women has announced that applications are now being accepted for its Spring series of Feminist Consciousness Raising groups, to begin in April. The groups will run for 10 weeks in Greenbelt and other locations in Prince Georges County, and offer an opportunity for women to share common experiences and problems. Leaders will be provided by N.O.W. To register, call Michele, 345-8094, or Dorothy, 345-9421.

Lake Park Parking Permits

Greenbelt residents are reminded that permits may be obtained at the Police Department for use of the permit parking area at Greenbelt Lake Park. The annual permit fee is one dollar. While it is expected that adequate spaces will be available to accommodate all permit holders under normal circumstances, spaces are available to permit holders on a first come, first served basis and on special occasions, all spaces might be occupied.

The permit parking area was established so that Greenbelt residents could drive to the Lake Park on busy weekends and have a parking space available. Public parking spaces are expected to be scarce, as parking is prohibited between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays along Crescent Road, Lastner Lane and Ivy Lane in the vicinity of the Lake Park.

GREENBELT NEWS REVIEW

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ALFRED M. SKOLNIK, PRESIDENT, 1959-1977
Editor Mary Lou Williamson, 474-4906

Associate Editors: Sandra Barnes, 474-5310; Barbara Likowski, 474-8482
STAFF
Betty Aggson, Bob Alfaro, Alexander Barnes, Suzanne Batra, Edith Beauchamp, Virginia Beauchamp, Linda Braun, Marilyn Brinkley, Margaret Butler, Corrine Comulada, Theresa Crowley, Judy Goldstein, Marian Garrison, Janet James, Michael Jones, Bernice Kastner, Sid Kastner, Martha Kaufman, Katherine Keene, Dorothy Lauber, Loretta Levesque, Larry Levine, Letta Mach, Jean Magee, Irene Menassa, Roberta McNamara, Linda Orenstein, Pearl Siegel, James Simon, Elaine Skolnik, Joanne Tucker, Jean Turkiewicz, Ottillie Van Allen.

BUSINESS MANAGER: Lynette Johnson; **CIRCULATION MANAGER:** Mike Jones, 474-6001; **Springhill Lake CIRCULATION:** Barbara Clawson, 474-4541.
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Volume 41, Number 18

Thursday, March 23, 1978

Seek Solution, Step - By - Step

When the Prince Georges County School Board holds its next meeting on March 29, it is expected to vote on several resolutions presented to the public at six open hearings. Reportedly, one resolution calls for tabling the plans because they lack public support. Another, while dropping any immediate implementation of plans 1 and 2, calls for further research, with wider exploration of options.

If the board members were truly listening at those public hearings, they must realize that the people of Prince Georges County overwhelmingly support the philosophy behind the demographic study—that our children should be able to attend schools closer to their homes and that children from already integrated communities should be able to attend schools in their neighborhoods.

Testimony at the hearings did not attack those concepts. It attacked inequities in solutions proposed in an obviously rushed and inadequate study (plan 2); it attacked the failure to consider projected, rather than current, population figures; it attacked the failure to coordinate the inquiry into closing of elementary schools with that concerning closing of junior high schools; it attacked the failure to look at alternative programs as well as busing as influences for desegregation; it attacked obvious failures in good educational policy, such as requiring the children of some communities to attend a different school every year, three years in a row. In short, those testifying refused to support as a finished product what was in effect a first-draft proposal.

We believe most citizens of the County would stand behind the message contained in a statement issued jointly by Greenbelt Mayor Richard R. Pilski on behalf of the city council and Howard Savage, Chairman of the Greenbelt School Study Committee: We believe that the board should continue the present inquiry, but broaden its focus and involve the public in the development of proposals to be placed before the board.

Frankly, we were stunned to hear that the School Board might vote to table the plans. It seemed a callous affront to the public—especially to those newly integrated neighborhoods that have politely asked the school board to consider their situations. It seems a let-down as well to the staff who worked more than a year to draw up the kind of plan they probably thought the board wanted.

We would urge the board to consider carefully the specific points raised at the public hearings, and then give the staff time—even as much as another year—to draw up a plan that would meet with public approval. We all—board, staff, and public—have much invested now. Let us continue the partnership and carry through step by step.

In the end, what we are trying to say is this: Let's not throw away the cherry pie just because it has some pits in it.

Dial 911 for Fire/Rescue

by Wayne Lewis

Members of the Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department would like to thank those individuals and organizations who aided us in our smoke detector seminar recently. We feel that those who attended gained some knowledge that may benefit them in the future.

When you call 911 for an ambulance to be dispatched to your home for help, did you ever stop to think about who would be coming to aid you? Who makes up a volunteer rescue squad? First, we should have professional fire-rescue personnel, and we have several. We also have policemen, educators, businessmen, machinists, electricians, plumbers, mechanics, bus and truck drivers, postal clerks, telephone men, etc. One thing they have in common is their willingness to study and train themselves to help everyone in time of need.

The training required is long and

varied. The Maryland State Emergency Medical Technician-Ambulance course requires 81 hours of study; the American Red Cross advanced first aid course is not quite as long. All members must take a 6-hour course in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) – Basic Cardiac Life Support. Before an ambulance can be dispatched from the station it must have at least one or more trained and experienced rescue persons on board.

Membership Drive

This month and part of next month our Greenbelt Volunteer Rescue Squad will be undertaking its annual Ambulance Club Membership Drive. Membership materials will be distributed from door-to-door by members. Please, take time to read the materials, then return the membership application as soon as possible. For additional information, please stop at the fire station or call 345-7000. We do our best when called upon to serve you. Please do your best when called upon to help us.

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CITY NOTES

Last week the contractor installed a chain link fence completely around the elderly housing site for reasons of safety and security. Some complaints have been received because residents in the neighborhood had been parking on the Ridge Road Center property. The Public Works Department is pursuing alternate arrangements including the removal of "no parking" signs which had been in place along the front of the property. Some work was accomplished on dewatering of the site and rerouting of a storm sewer began.

Work began this week on relocation of the sewer line and installation of the demountable partitions at the Municipal building addition. Also, the electrician worked on the underground wiring system for outside lighting around the addition and a tie-in to the parking lot lights, while the general contractor continued hanging doors.

All pedestrian underpasses were cleaned. Leaves and other debris were removed from storm sewer catch basins. Considerable time and material was spent on patching potholes.

Picnic tables are being painted and dugouts at McDonald Field repaired. The CETA crew has returned to work on the storm ditch along Braden Field. It is planned to have the court people working at the Junior High School removing glass and stones from the field. The ground has been too wet to do any other work on ballfields.

Last week the paper collection netted 8 tons, 920 lbs., an increase over recent weeks.

Several dead trees were removed from city parks. The chipper was out and parks and playgrounds were cleaned. Paper and other debris were removed from roadsides. The equipment in the tennis court light switch house was cleaned and oiled.

For the month of February, 143 tons, 830 lbs. of refuse were collected and disposed of at the County landfill. Since February was only a 28-day month, the average was about the same as January. The price of paper for the month of February was \$1.50 per 100 lbs. or \$30.00 a ton. On March 1 the price dropped back to \$1.25 or \$25.00 a ton; now \$1.00 per 100 lbs. or \$20 a ton.

The artists who painted the mural in the commercial center were out recently to temporarily patch some small spots where flaking had occurred. This is a temporary repair and they expect to return around mid-April, weather permitting, and work on the mural for perhaps two or three weeks.

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH Episcopal

Baltimore Blvd. at Powder Mill Rd., Beltsville
8 a.m. Holy Communion
10:30 a.m. Morning Prayer
(Holy Communion 1st Sunday)
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
Rev. John G. Bals, Rector

St. Andrew's Church

Episcopal
4812 College Ave., College Park.
One block E. of Book Exchange
Rev. A. Moody Burt, Pastor

Good Friday

12:00 Noon, Good Friday Offices
8:00 p.m. Evening Prayer and
Contata "The Seven Last Words" by Dubois.

Easter

7:30 a.m. Lighting of Paschal Candle and Holy Eucharist
9:30 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Preschool care)
11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

Thursday, March 23, 1978

Free Income Tax Help

Help with forms 1040 and 1040A will be available at Greenbelt Library from 7 to 9 p.m. on March 25 and April 12.

Staff from the VITA (Volunteer Income Tax Assistance) Program are trained in basic income tax preparation by the IRS and will be on hand to give free aid to taxpayers filing simple forms. Persons needing help should bring the tax package sent them by the IRS and pertinent tax documents such as W-2 forms and interest statements. VITA volunteers will also be able to give information on tax benefits, such as the earned income credit, general tax credit and pension benefits.

Although VITA will serve anyone needing assistance with their taxes, this IRS program was developed to reach taxpayers with a simple tax status who cannot afford private help.



The Greenbelt Labor Day Festival Committee will hold its annual meeting at the Greenbelt Library, on Monday, March 27, at 7:30 p.m., in the meeting room. Past and future festival participants are invited to attend. Further information may be obtained from Sandra Barnes, at 474-5310.

MOWATT MEMORIAL United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Rd. 474-9410

NO CHURCH SCHOOL this Sun.
Morning Worship 9:30 & 11 a.m.

EASTER SERMON:

"Resurrection - Here and Now!"
Rev. Clifton D. Cunningham,
Pastor 474-3381

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN !!

You are invited and welcomed to meet with us each week.

GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

474-4212

Bible Study for all ages (Sun)

9:45 am.

Sunday Worship

11:00 am & 7:00 pm

Mid-week prayer service (Wed)

6:00 pm

For bus transportation, call Church office 8:30-12:30 weekdays

Greenbelt Community Church

(United Church of Christ)

Hillside and Crescent Roads - Phone 474-6171 (mornings)

Nursery provided at 2B Hillside

Rev. Sherry Taylor and Rev. Harry Taylor, co-pastors

Maundy Thursday, March 23 - 6:30 P.M. Passover Seder, Communion and Pot-Luck Supper.

Good Friday, March 24 - services will be at Mowatt Memorial Methodist Church at 8:00 P.M.

Saturday, March 25 - Candlelight Communion Service at 9:00 P.M., Easter Sunday Sunrise Service at the Lake at 7:00 A.M. - regular service at 11:00 A.M.

Easter Services

Holy Week at Holy Cross

Good Friday, 7:30 p.m.: A time to remember the suffering and death of Jesus for the salvation of the world. The adult choir will present a choral meditation entitled "Man of Sorrows."

Easter Sunrise, 6:00 a.m.: This is a special service at the end of the Sabbath as it begins to dawn towards the first day of the week. The service will be held indoors. A breakfast will be served immediately following the service.

Easter Festival Services, 8:30 and 11:15 a.m.: The best way to catch a part of the excitement of Christ's Resurrection is to join the crowds in worship. Hear about "Jesus - the Hope of the World."

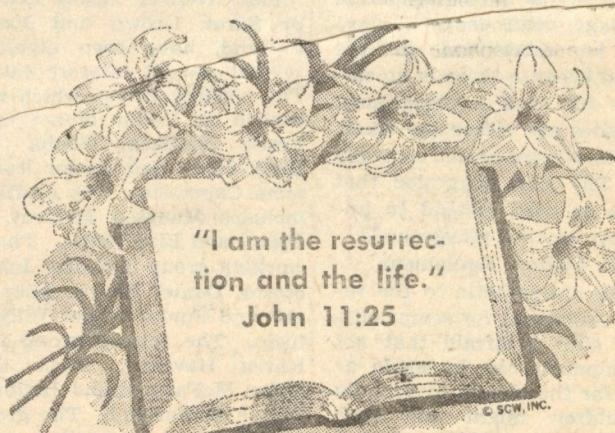
Holy Cross Lutheran Church

6905 Greenbelt Rd.

Edward H. Birner, Pastor

345-5111

474-9200



THANKS**To the Editor:**

Our sincere thanks to our many friends and neighbors for the flowers, mass cards and other expressions of sympathy and acts of kindness extended to us during our recent bereavement.

Our appreciation also to the Ladies of Charity and the Greenbelt Volunteer Rescue Squad.

The family of Joseph J. McCord

A Sense of Community**To the Editor:**

I recently testified at a school board hearing in behalf of Greenbriar residents. I opposed proposals that would have educated Greenbriar children in Lanham rather than Greenbelt. I reasoned that: 1) this would be disruptive to their education, as this would be the third school re-assignment in three years, and 2) our children's fine education should be preserved in their own community.

I now regret my actions for the latter point, as perhaps I was not representative of all too many Greenbriar residents. For indications are that I've over-estimated the community loyalty of Greenbriar residents to the city of Greenbelt. And that's a shame.

Despite the eloquent urging of city officials and your paper, Phase I Greenbriar residents have not yet granted the needed approval for the federally-funded Baltimore-Washington Parkway pedestrian overpass. I was disappointed at this decision, but I was more disappointed for the reasons given.

The pre-ballot discussion was one of distrust of residents of the older sections of the city. The terms "them" and "us" were tossed about readily while weighing security issues. One woman read a prepared statement which blatantly proclaimed, "We didn't move into Greenbelt. We moved into Greenbriar." I saw community pride take a back seat to comparatively petty logistical concerns of our development. And I saw little confidence in the parties involved or the city to work out foreseeable problems. I heard that the access way to ERHS is a bigger value to "them" than the features of the city and its environs are to "us."

Our board of directors had unanimously endorsed the overpass, but showed scant leadership in promoting a sense of Greenbelt "community". I thought this overpass would bridge more than a highway and make us "closer" Greenbelters. But evidently there are Greenbriar residents who relish the physical barrier of the Parkway as preserving a sort of splendid isolation.

Worst of all, I saw little concern for the safety of kids who'll keep crossing the Parkway. It'll always be dangerous, and illegal, and harmful to our property. But kids will be kids and occasionally foolhardy enough to take a straight line between two points. And someday, one will pay the price.

The issue is not dead, but it's natural for me to be an angry apologist for these viewpoints to date. But unnecessary, for most of us should already know there's much good of both areas to share as Greenbelters. What's more important is that we recognize a sad condition and work even harder to develop the common sense of civic pride and community we all should have as citizens of Greenbelt.

Dick French

EDITOR'S NOTE: The News Review welcomes letters to the editor. They must be signed (in handwriting) and bear the writer's address and telephone number. Letters that are legible — preferably typewritten, double spaced on one side of the paper, and brief — have the best chance of publication. The deadline is 8 p.m. Tuesday night. We reserve the right to shorten letters of undue length.

Dial a Dietician

March is nutrition month. As a public service, Prince Georges General Hospital and Medical Center will answer any questions on diet and nutrition. To dial a dietitian, call 341-2045, or 2046, from 8 a.m. until noon daily during the rest of March.

Letters to the Editor

Rehabilitation Study . . . Something Tangible**To the Editor:**

I wish to thank Bettie G. Denson for her commending the GHI Board for its having commissioned the rehabilitation study. It is "something tangible to work with." In making this observation, she points out that (1) the rehabilitation program is in process of evolution, and (2) the study will assist in the evolution. As I wrote in my letter to members of February 3, the study is "not a document setting forth policy decisions . . . (It) . . . is the starting point in making decisions."

The confusion and uncertainty about financing rehabilitation is regrettable, but unavoidable. All possibilities, including government loans and grants, are being investigated. As soon as more definitive information is available, it will be provided. For the time being it may be sufficient to state that GHI is seeking to obtain (1) loans at less than market rate interest, (2) grants to members that would not require repayment and (3) a grant to GHI to enable it to make loans to members which would be repayable upon sale of units into a revolving fund from which loans would then be made to other members.

Probably it will be necessary that GHI approve a rehabilitation "package" to obtain government grants or loans. On what basis other than that could an applicant expect to receive serious consideration? However, the contents of the package will be what we, as GHI members, choose to put in it. Furthermore, no contracts would be let until the contents of the package had been determined and satisfactory arrangements had been made.

When the Board is putting together its "package" of rehabilitation proposals is the time when members can have the greatest influence on what goes into that package. That time is now. Please submit your ideas and suggestions in writing if possible, as I asked in my letter of February 3.

James W. Smith
President,
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

People Are Important**To the Editor:**

On the evening of Thursday, March 9, Dorothy Cookson was struck and killed by a car on Crescent Road. The public sidewalk near the fire house where she was walking was not cleared of snow.

The city must clear the public walks and build more of them if we are to avoid seeing other "Dorothy Cookson's" being killed in the same way. The citizens of Greenbelt pay high taxes and should get these necessary services.

Dorothy was a beautiful person. She did not have to die the way she did. PEOPLE ARE IMPORTANT.

Irene Hensel

AMBULANCE ON DISPLAY

Your ambulance will be on display on the following days in the Center Mall:

Friday

6 pm to 9 pm

Saturday

12 noon to 4 pm

Sunday

12 noon to 3 pm

Our crew will be glad to show and your family the equipment we carry to SERVE YOU.

Greenbelt Volunteer Fire Department and Rescue Squad

Refutes Charges**To the Editor:**

In her latest letter to the News Review on the GHI rehabilitation program, Bettie Denson wonders "what GHI has been doing with the maintenance charges which were supposed to maintain the standard of these dwellings and replace worn-out structure as time took its toll." That was precisely what the board was talking about at that meeting on December 2, 1970 when a howling mob descended on Center School and joyfully voted down a monthly charge increase sufficient to maintain the structures at a high standard.

I remember well the board meeting after that debacle on December 2 when the first motion was "Move to cut the trim paint program" and Dave Kane, the maintenance director, remarked, "There go the window sills." But we cut the trim paint program.

That same group in 1972 and 1973 heckled the board at every meeting which considered rehabilitation as recommended by the TAA consultants, bombarded the News Review with letters intended to destroy member's confidence in their elected board, and left on members' doorsteps copies of statements which the News Review refused to print because of the inaccuracies in them. Under this constant pressure the board voted down the TAA pilot program.

For years GHI has done necessary maintenance. However, the staff has never been able to get into preventive maintenance or into much of a capital improvement program due to restricted funds. They have replaced one window at a time where needed, and replaced corroded water pipes when they began leaking. This isolated item maintenance costs more in the long run than a full program of replacement.

Ms. Denson also comments on the high cost of rehabilitation. When the program was first proposed under TAA, the cost would have been much less. Every year that we wait will push the cost higher, particularly if we do not do the work on a program basis, but do it piecemeal.

There is no way in which corroding waterpipes are going to correct themselves, no way in which heat costs will come down as long as we continue to heat the outdoors, and no way in which the roses that cover the cracks in the masonry will bloom all winter. The board must decide on the most critical items, present them to the membership, and get those parts of the rehabilitation programs started.

Norman Weyel

Mishkan Torah News

Lynn Brailler, clinical specialist in Psychiatric Nursing, will speak at a meeting of the Mishkan Torah Sisterhood on Thursday, March 30, at 8:15 p.m. She will lecture and demonstrate on stress management, using bio-feedback and meditation. A business meeting will start at 7:30 p.m.

Scare Tactics**To the Editor:**

I should like to make one correction and one comment on Bettie G. Denson's letter in last week's News Review.

The correction: She speaks of a \$25,000,000 loan. At no time has anyone suggested a loan of that size. The figure came from a question asked at the Monday information meeting. The consultants were asked, "If we do the whole package, everything suggested, and if we borrow the money for 20 years at the maximum rate of interest and if we get no help from the government or anyone else, how much would the total cost be, including interest for 20 years?"

The answer was that the total, including interest for 20 years, would be about \$25,000,000. The estimate of the actual borrowing required if we were to do the entire package is about \$11,000,000.

Now, we are unlikely to do the entire package. The board asked the consultants to suggest the maximum that we might do and benefit thereby. It is up to us to select what we will do from that package and that is why the information meetings were called and why members were asked to write to the board with their suggestions as to what we do.

We are very likely to get help from the government both because some of the package includes fuel conservation measures and because we are eligible for low-interest-rate loans for some of the rehabilitation projects. We are most unlikely to have to pay the highest interest rates for any portion of the money we might have to borrow from banks. Management and past and present boards have taken excellent care of our credit. Do members know that we have a \$1,500,000 line of credit at 1% above prime. That is very good credit indeed.

The comment: That \$25,000,000 figure is a scare tactic and I am sorry that Ms. Denson has been bamboozled into using it in print. We cannot let such scare tactics deter us from a good rehabilitation program!

Margaret Smith

Positive Contributions Needed**To the Editor:**

I was very appreciative of the concern expressed by Bettie G. Denson in her March 16 letter to the Greenbelt News Review about the GHI Rehabilitation and Planning Study. It is through informational meetings and such communications that board members and management are made aware of members' feelings about proposed actions in our cooperative.

However, I would like to specifically address the point that Bettie raised in her letter about Board members' and management's past judgments. I am going on the assumption that she is particularly referring to the matter of correcting structural and other problems that have been developing during the 35 to 40 years of our units' lives.

Boards of directors, members and GHI management have been aware of the need for making substantial improvements in our homes and had launched capital improvement projects to take care of highest priority items. But, in nearly every instance, these projects met with very strong opposition, seemingly from the feeling of many members that GHI had some source of hidden wealth that can take care of these special expenses, plus regular maintenance, without increasing members' charges. A study of past annual and special membership meeting minutes will show what was proposed and what the membership actually agreed would be funded.

I hope that Bettie's letter is not a first salvo in creating a division or "sides" in our membership, but that it is a sincere effort to give us all a better understanding of what our mutual needs are and how we can best meet them in the near and the distant future. With her interest and that of other concerned members who approach this study with positive contributions, I feel that GHI will continue to be a model which other housing cooperatives can follow in solving problems such as these that we are now addressing.

Stephen Polaschik
Board Member,
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

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Per Annum

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HOURS

Mon.-Thur. 9-6

Friday 9-8

Saturday 9-12

Thursday, March 28
9 a.m. - 8 p.m.

CLOSED
GOOD FRIDAY

March 24



DON'T FORGET . . . MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS

at the

21st Annual Meeting of the Members

8:00 p.m., Tuesday, March 28, 1978

City Council Meeting Room, City Office Building

Elections
Refreshments

Annual Reports
Door Prizes

Members are encouraged to attend or to vote by proxy. Information regarding proxy voting, including the ballot, was included in a mailing earlier this week. See the Twin Pines Newsletter elsewhere in this paper.

Greenbelt Grab-bag...

by Punchin' Judy

Uncle Wilbur does not approve of the subway. "They better not bring that thing into Greenbelt," he told me the other day.

"But Uncle Wilbur," I said. "Think of the convenience of being able to take the Metro into Washington, into Silver Spring . . ."

"Into oblivion!" he interrupted. "Haven't you been reading in the daily paper how Metro is chewing up 6,000 people a day?"

"No, no, Uncle Wilbur. All those reports meant was that the authorities can't account for a certain number of passengers every day."

"Of course, not. The subway eats 'em. People go in at one end and never come out the other. Metro gobbles 'em up. Doesn't even spit out the pits."

"Uncle Wilbur, those news stories just mean that they haven't been able to figure out . . ." I stopped, the explanation was beginning to sound lame even to me.

"Aha!" he shouted triumphantly. "Six thousand people a day vanish without a trace, and you want the subway extended into Greenbelt. Do you realize that in one week there wouldn't even be anybody left in this city?"

"Well," I replied rather weakly, "When you put it that way it does sound kind of risky. Maybe I better look around for a car pool."

"Now that's another thing we gotta look into," he said. "How safe are these car pools. Is there a life guard on duty at all times? Do they have the right pH level. How come I'm the only one with sense enough to consider all the angles?"

"I don't know, Uncle Wilbur," I said, taking my leave of him. "Maybe you know something we don't."

"I know a lot of things you don't," he assured me. "I'll walk you down to the corner. Got a letter to mail. I'm sending a petition to Metro to bring back the street cars. Things haven't gone right since we went off our trolley."

CITY NEEDS NOTICE OF SHA LAND PLANS

"Municipalities, like the City of Greenbelt, must have notice of the State Highway Administration's advance land acquisition plans, if we are to prevent a repeat of the Golden Triangle misunderstanding," said Senator Edward T. Conroy in testifying before the Senate Finance Committee on Tuesday, March 7.

Conroy's bill, Senate Bill 1163, requires the State Highway Administration to afford a municipality, in which the land they wish to acquire is located, input in the acquisition process. Efforts for orderly planned development of the Golden Triangle were seriously disrupted by the Highway Administration's actions in stating its intent to use a part of the Golden Triangle for a new ramp to the Parkway.

Joining Conroy in insisting on notice to Greenbelt from the Highway Administration, were City Councilman Charles Schwan and Assistant City Manager, Dennis Piendak.

Applications Available for Historical Essay Contest

The Prince Georges County Historical and Cultural Trust, the County Historical Society and the New Quality Committee are sponsoring a special historical essay contest to promote the "History Month" celebration in April. The County will mark its 282d anniversary (1696) on April 23.

The contest is open to all public and parochial school students and to students attending Prince Georges Community College, Bowie State College and the University of Maryland.

A \$100. U.S. Savings Bond will be presented for each of the following categories:

Kindergarten through 6th grade; Grades 7 through 12 and College level.

The award winners will be honored at the annual St. George's Day dinner to be held on April 23 at the University of Maryland.

For further information, please call Jane DeMarines at 341-3356.

Greenbelt's Library

Wednesday brings Funday to the library at 4 p.m. for ages 6-9 in the Program Room. This program continues through March 29.

At 2 p.m. Drop-In Stories will entertain ages 3-5 on Thursdays in the Program Room.

The Adult Book Discussion Group will meet Thurs., March 30, at 10:15 a.m. to 12 noon, in the Conference Room. Book to be discussed is *The Realms of Gold*, by Margaret Drabble. Next meeting will be Thurs., April 27, to discuss *The Thorn Birds*, by Colleen McCullough. New members are welcome. Please register at the Information Desk.

"International Cinema," a series of memorable films will begin on Wednesday, March 29, at 7:30 p.m. in the Greenbelt Library and will continue on alternate Wednesdays during April and May, beginning April 5. Admission is free. For details call 345-5800.

The first feature will be *Carnival in Flanders*. Spanish invaders are thrown off balance when the women of a Flemish town prepare a carnival and banquet.

The administrative offices and all branch libraries of the Prince Georges County Memorial Library System will be closed on Sat., March 25 in honor of Maryland Day.

The exhibits at the Library during the month of March are the following: the Miniature Display in the Meeting Room by the Minimaniacs Club extends from March 20-24, Watercolors by Pauline Bade of College Park, Pottery by Sue Taylor of Silver Spring; Animal Collection by Kate and Beth Hahn of Columbia; and Model Trains by Edward Bauer of Silver Spring.

Park with Picnic Area Is Proposed for SHL

PRAB Report 3-78

Conceptual development plans for a Springhill Lake neighborhood park were presented by Greenbelt Junior High School Principal Charles Collins and Springhill Lake resident/PRAB Member Arnold Thomas at the February 16, meeting of the Greenbelt Park and Recreation Advisory Board.

PRAB, by a 7-1 vote, agreed in principle with the concept of the neighborhood park. They recommended that council direct its staff to review the plan and submit a report of the feasibility of its development.

The project provides for the development of a picnic area in the wooded location adjacent to the Junior High School. Listed below are the suggested recommendations to be included.

1. Thinning of undesired scrub trees and undergrowth, and retention of the better existing site resources for aesthetic and recreational purposes.

2. Placement of picnic and game tables, park benches, trash containers and grilles for use by families, groups and elderly citizens on a city permit basis.

3. Improving the existing path system through the area with possible Board of Education assistance.

4. A second phase project is proposed for the development of a nature area adjacent to the picnic grounds for use and planning involvement of area school students and Recreation Department activities.

Collins and Thomas based their recommendation on the following objectives to be accomplished with this development:

1. Elimination or reduction of misuse of the area which presently takes place especially in the summer months.

2. Establishment of a neighborhood park for Springhill Lakers in the immediate community as well as all Greenbelt residents in general. It was also noted that this might be a factor in reducing the burden of crowded conditions at the Lake Park.

3. Providing a learning experience for students through planning involvement.

4. Protection of the unique natural characteristics of the wooded area and appreciation by users of its offerings.

Collins has estimated the total cost of the project to be \$5,000.



1978 WINTER LEISURE TIME ACTIVITIES GREENBELT RECREATION DEPARTMENT

474-6878

In-person registration, first come-first served basis. ALL REGISTRANTS MAY SIGN UP AT EITHER CENTER FOR ALL CLASSES.

Monday, March 27, 7-9 p.m. Springhill Lake Recreation Center

Tuesday, March 28, 7-9 p.m., Greenbelt Youth Center

Wednesday March 29, 3-5 p.m., Greenbelt Youth Center

Late registration on a space available basis only, Thursday, March 30, 10 am - 3:30 pm at the Youth Center Business Office. Make all checks payable to the City of Greenbelt.

CLASS FEES: All registrants living outside the Greenbelt city limits will be charged an additional 25% for all classes. A 10% discount will be given to all senior citizens, 62 years old and over, registering for classes.

All week day classes will begin the week of April 10. Saturday classes will begin April 8. Classes are held for the number of sessions or hours designated.

Refunds will be made if classes are cancelled by the Department due to insufficient registration. Other refunds will be made only according to provisions in City of Greenbelt Resolution No. 65, which also requires that refund requests be made in writing immediately for valid reasons.

LOCATION CODE: Braden Field - BF; Braden Field Tennis Courts - BFTC; Center Elementary School - CS; Springhill Lake Recreation Center - SHLRC; Youth Center - YC.

BABYSITTING services are provided for classes indicated by an asterisk (*). Fee is 50¢ per child per class hour. Participants must register for entire class.

CHILDREN, TEEN & ADULT CLASSES

ACTIVITIES	LOCATION	DAY/TIME	AGE GROUP	FEE
Arts & Crafts	SHLRC/YC	Mon 4:00-5:00p	1st-3rd grade	Non-Resident add 25% FREE - 8 weeks
	SHLRC/YC	Wed 4:00-5:00p	4th-6th grade	FREE - 8 weeks
Archery	BF	Tue 4:00- 5:00p	10-13 yrs.	\$8/8 sessions
	SHLRC	Thu 4:00- 5:00p	10-13 yrs.	\$8/8 sessions
Ballet - Adult	YC	Thu 6:00-7:00p	16 & over	\$12/8 sessions
Children - Pre-School I	YC	Sat 9:30-10:30a	4-5 yrs	\$12/8 sessions
Pre-School II	YC	Sat 10:30-11:30a	4-5 yrs	\$12/8 sessions
Beginner I	YC	Sat 11:30-12:30p	6 & over	\$12/8 sessions
Basketry - plus materials	YC	Thu 7:00- 9:00p	16 & over	\$15/8 2-hr sessions
Caning - Plus materials	YC	Wed 7:00-9:00p	16 & over	\$16/8 2-hr sessions
Chucks 'n' Lassies	SHLRC/YC	Sat 9:00-10:30a	6-8 yrs.	FREE - 8 weeks
Fitness program for boys & girls	SHLRC/YC	Sat 10:30-12:00n	9-12 yrs.	FREE - 8 weeks
Clay Modeling	YC	Sat 10:30-11:30a	6 yrs. & over	\$8/8 sessions
Creative Carrousel	YC	Sat 9:00-10:00a	3-5 yrs.	\$8/8 sessions
Creative Dramatics	YC	Sat 11:30-12:30p	6-12 yrs.	\$8/8 sessions
Crocheting - Plus materials	YC	*Fri 9:30-11:00a	Adult	\$15/8 sessions
	SHLRC	Wed 7:00-8:30p	16 & over	\$15/8 sessions
Disco Dance - Beginner I	YC	Thu 7:00-8:30p	16 & over	\$12/8 sessions
Beginner II	YC	Thu 7:00-8:30p	16 & over	\$12/8 sessions
Intermediate	YC	Thu 8:30-10:00p	16 & over	\$12/8 sessions
Exercise to Jazz	YC	*Thu 12:00- 1:00p	Adults	\$12.50/10 sessions
Floor Acrobatics	YC	Tue 5:00-6:00p	6 & over	\$10/8 sessions
Funtime	YC	Thu 4:00-5:00p	3-6 yrs	FREE - 8 weeks
Golf	SHLRC	Tue 6:00- 7:00p	16 & over	\$15/8 sessions
	SHLRC	Thu 6:00- 7:00p	16 & over	\$15/8 sessions
Guitar - Beginner	YC	Tue 7:00-8:00p	13 & over	\$12/10 sessions
Adv. Beginner	YC	Tue 8:00-9:00p	15 & over	\$12/10 sessions
Gymnastics	SHLRC	Sat 9:00-10:00a	6 yrs & over	\$25/10 sessions
	SHLRC	Sat 10:00-11:00a	6 & over	\$25/10 sessions
Hatha Yoga - Beginning	YC	Tue 6:30-8:00p	16 & over	\$15/8 sessions
Continuing	YC	Tue 8:00-9:30p	16 & over	\$15/8 sessions
Macrame - plus materials	YC	Mon 7:30-9:30p	16 & over	\$12/5 sessions
Model Building	SHLRC	Fri 4:00-5:30p	6-12 yrs	\$5/8 sessions
Model Yacht Design - Plus materials	SHLRC	Thu 8:00-9:00p	Families	\$10/8 family sessions
Pottery - plus materials	YC	Mon 7:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$32/10 sessions
	YC	Tue 7:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$32/10 sessions
	YC	Thu 7:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$32/10 sessions
	YC	*Fri 10:00-12:00n	Adult	\$32/10 sessions
Senior Citizen Activities	BF	Wed 10:30-11:30a	Seniors	\$5/8 sessions
Archery	YC	Mon 10:00-11:30a	Seniors	\$10/6 sessions
Ceramics - plus materials	SHLRC	Wed 10:30-11:30a	Seniors	\$5/8 sessions
Golf	BFTC	Mon 10:30-11:30a	Seniors	\$5/8 sessions
Tennis	BFTC	Mon 10:30-11:30a	Seniors	\$5/8 sessions
Slimnastics	SHLRC	*Wed 9:30-10:30a	Adult	\$12.50/10 sessions
	YC	Wed 7:30- 8:30p	16 & over	\$12.50/10 sessions
	YC	Wed 8:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$12.50/10 sessions
	YC	*Thu 9:30-10:30a	Adult	\$12.50/10 sessions
Stretch Exercise Techniques	YC	Wed 6:30-7:30p	16 & over	\$12/10 sessions
Tap Dance	YC	Tue 4:00-5:00p	6 & over	\$10/8 sessions
Tennis - Adult	BFTC	Mon 5:30- 7:30p	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
Beginner	BFTC	Mon 7:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
Intermediate	BFTC	Tue 5:30- 7:30p	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
Beginner	BFTC	Tue 7:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
Intermediate	BFTC	Wed 5:30- 7:30p	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
Beginner	BFTC	Wed 7:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
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Beginner	BFTC	Thu 7:30- 9:30p	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
Beginner	BFTC	Fri 10:00-11:00a	Adults	\$15/5 sessions
Intermediate	BFTC	Sat 9:00-10:00a	16 & over	\$15/5 sessions
Beginner	BFTC	Sat 11:00-12		



GHI General Manager, Roy Breashears, displays the plaque presented by the Board of Directors on his 25th anniversary with GHI. Also seen, from the top right down is GHI's first general manager, Paul Campbell; GHI attorney, Al Ginsburg; and GHI comptroller, Don McGinn.

Breashears Marks 25 Years With GHI at Surprise Party

by Sandra Barnes

An astounded Roy Breashears, general manager of Greenbelt Homes, Inc., joyfully greeted the 65 persons who turned out at a surprise 25th anniversary celebration at the home of Board president Jim Smith last week-end.

Roy began his career with GHI in March, 1953, as an accountant. Eighteen months later he became the comptroller, then assistant manager and comptroller. Finally, in 1962, he was appointed general manager, only the third in GHI's 30-year history.

Recalling those early days, Roy credits the strength of the cooperative to the high calibre of the people who originally formed GHI. He remembers how he and his co-workers spent days, evenings, and week-ends sifting through huge piles of papers stored in boxes and egg crates through the administration building. Their job was to set up the books of record. Roy thought that this was going to be his most difficult task, that following the establishment of the records, his job would become routine, even dull. He did not envision in those days what it would mean to have 1608 bosses.

Roy has a warm regard for those "bosses". Members' problems come first on his priority list. However, solving members' problems are often the most important part of his job. "I can manage a million dollar maintenance program," he grins, "but sometimes I can't solve a problem between two neighbors and make both happy."

Having knowledge sometimes of the intimate details of a person's life has created for him strong ties to many members in GHI. He shares their problems, is drawn to them sometimes because of them. Joan Freeman, Roy's secretary for 13 years, says "Roy is someone you can confide in. Many employees feel they can talk to him, and he will be sympathetic."

The corporation's attorney for the past 15 years, Al Ginsburg, also points out Roy's "knack of getting along with people without riling them up." Ginsburg further commends Roy's ability to delegate authority "which not all administrators can do" and praises his wide knowledge of co-ops which has led colleagues in the field to seek his services in setting up other cooper-

atives.

Past president of GHI and long-time friend, Charlie Schwan, sees GHI as an institution which deals with the individual on a day-to-day basis. As a result, there are countless opportunities for friction. Roy Breashears, as general manager, becomes the personification of the corporation and hence the target of an individual's frustrations, says Schwan. "His is a very, very difficult job," he stresses. "But Roy is a very strong person to have come through (these 25 years) without paranoia . . . He's been strong, stable . . . GHI has survived quite well because of Roy, as well as the character of the members, the boards of directors, and the staff."

GHI's first general manager, Paul Campbell, sees Roy's 25 years with GHI as a "welding together (of) divergent forces into a progression of offerings of the cooperative to its members and their quality of life . . . Roy's professional guidance has been keyed to the striking of balances of membership and board desires . . . a not-too-easy administrative role . . ."

Schwan says Roy is a very modest man. And, Roy himself is quick to credit GHI's health and vigor to the "membership which has elected excellent people to the boards of directors" over the years.

As he views his retirement in the not too distant future, Roy sees himself, fishing rod in hand, as wedded to the Outer Banks of North Carolina as he ever was to GHI. "It'll be hard keeping me away from the surf when the fish are running," he smiles, although his wife has visions of opening an antique store - with his help - and his son has visions of opening an accounting office - with his help.

As Ginsburg firmly stresses, "There is no question that the interest of GHI is paramount over everything to Roy."

On Thursday afternoon, March 23, the GHI staff also helped Roy celebrate his 25th anniversary at a coffee and cake party.

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PLAYGROUNDS Cn't fr. p. 1

posal is for a sheltered rest area between the elderly housing facility and the Center mall. Two concrete game tables with seats for the rear of the mall are also under consideration.

The PRA report recommended that \$15,000 be used "to renovate existing public-private playgrounds." Staff has suggested log climbers such as those at the Lakewood and Boxwood playgrounds be purchased with most of these funds. These would be distributed throughout the CDBG neighborhood, especially in the North End. Funds could also be used for railroad ties to confine wood chips under playground equipment. It is recommended that the city use ODBG funds for equipment and materials and have city workers perform the labor.

One major concern is whether funds should or would be allocated for use at playgrounds located on private property. At present, the city has playground equipment in 24 areas, 19 in the CDBG neighborhood. However, eight are on Greenbelt Homes, Inc. property. The city was given the right to put playground equipment on GHI property in a letter from the GHI manager. In a preliminary response, the Prince Georges County staff has indicated that funds might be approved for these areas if a more formal easement agreement is worked out with GHI.

The staff report noted that "nearly 80% of the city playgrounds are in an area containing less than 40% of the city's population." It also noted that city playground maintenance is primarily limited to mowing, leaf and trash removal, and equipment repair. Because of the upkeep problems and the number of playgrounds in the CDBG neighborhood, city staff has recommended that new playgrounds not be created in the CDBG neighborhood.

Volunteers Needed

Community Ministry needs volunteers to work with the Dept. of Social Services, making appointments for people who need food stamps and/or medicaid. Volunteers will answer phones, fill out brief forms and mail information to those people calling in for appointments.

Community Ministry has an office in the First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, staffed by volunteers.

Anyone who cares about people, and likes working in a busy office should call us. Choose hours between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m., call 779-2177 and ask for Jo or Lynn.

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Handicapped Sought

The Prince George's County Public Schools have launched Project: Child Find, a concerted effort to seek out handicapped children and youth who are not now enrolled in a public school program. Federal law mandates that all handicapped children from birth through age 20 be located, identified and evaluated.

Federal regulations define "handicapped" as "... those children evaluated as being mentally retarded, hard of hearing, deaf, speech-impaired, visually handicapped, seriously emotionally disturbed orthopedically impaired, deaf-blind, multiply handicapped, or as having specific learning disabilities (who, because of those impairments need special education and related services) . . ."

According to school system special education officials, most school age handicapped children already are known to the public schools, since both state and federal laws have for some time required local education agencies to provide appropriate placement for such youngsters. Requirements to serve preschool-age handicapped children, however, are being phased in. In preparation, the Prince George's schools have expanded their existing Early Identification Program to include Project: Child Find, coordinating the effort to locate and evaluate all handicapped children in the country.

According to June Gallagher, Child Find Coordinator for the county, a total of 348 handicapped pre-schoolers have been identified

March 31 Entry Deadline For Beautification Contest

Applications are now available at County Buildings and libraries for the 1978 Awards competition sponsored by the Prince Georges County Beautification Committee. The Beautification Contest, an annual event, is open to all county residents, and awards are made in several categories including civic groups, homeowners, municipalities, business institutions, schools and garden clubs.

The contest, now in its third year, was initiated in 1976 as a Bicentennial Year event. It continues to gain popularity as residents enjoy the benefits of the many imaginative landscape projects. Past entries have included the beautification of homeowner properties, landscaping school grounds, restoring disturbed areas, landscaping business establishments and planting common areas and parks in communities or municipalities.

The entry deadline for spring judging is March 31, and applications are available from the Office of the County Landscape Architect, Room 3186, County Administration Building, Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20870 (telephone 952-4270).

since the project began. The school system already provides special education to approximately 15,000 school age children.

The Child Find project is asking any citizen knowing of a child or young person with some disability who is not enrolled in a school program to call 262-6122.

Will's Hardware Spring Sale 30% off

All papers in the following books

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- Britania
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Beginning March 25, 1978 for five weeks, Will's in Beltsville will feature the above mentioned books at 30% off. Our staff will guide you through Will's 300 books, all at discount prices.

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DIRECTIONS: From Greenbelt take the Beltway one exit to 27 North (Laurel-Baltimore Blvd. exit) continue one mile on Rt. 1 to the Chestnut Hill Center on your left.

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Natural gas is odorless in its natural state. We add a disagreeable smell as a means of alerting people in case any gas should escape.

Gas leaks may occur from faulty appliances, loose connections, service lines inside or outside your home, or from gas mains. Such leaks should be dealt with promptly by experts.

If you ever smell gas — even if you do not use it in your own home — take these precautions promptly:

1. Call Washington Gas at 750-1000.

2. If the odor is very strong and you are indoors, open windows and doors to ventilate. Go outside. Call us from a neighbor's house.

3. Do not turn any electrical switches on or off.

4. Do not light matches, smoke cigarettes or create any source of combustion.

However slim the chance of danger, it doesn't pay to take needless risks. At the first sniff of gas, play it safe.

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PUBLIC HIGHLY CRITICAL OF BUS PLANS BUT SUPPORTS CONCEPT AND OBJECTIVES

by Mary Lou Williamson

The last of the public hearings on Demographic Alternative studies 1 and 2 (Plans 1 and 2) drew some 450 persons to the Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School on March 13. The lights didn't go out this time and about 71 persons, cheered on by their supporters, trekked to the microphone to make their views known to the Prince Georges County Board of Education.

Chairman Norman Saunders thought it would be necessary to hold a seventh public hearing to accommodate the extra-long list of speakers. However, this need was obviated by dispensing with the 40 minute introductory statement by administrative officials.

Unlike the first meeting at Roosevelt, which was dominated by Greenbelters, this last session brought out persons from College Park, Laurel, Chillum, Adelphi, Riverdale and other nearby communities. While opinions varied, almost all of the speakers were against Plans 1 and 2, with a few solidly behind the plans.

In contrast, also, to the first meeting was the focus taken by a majority of the speakers. Greenbelters have generally utilized a broad approach, examining the plans in depth to see how they affected the entire county. The majority of those commenting at the March 13 hearing, however, zeroed in on those portions of the plans affecting their immediate areas.

A common thread, wove itself through all the presentations—that the premises established by the board in its June 1976 directive were not carried out in many individual cases. The premises are: (1) where possible, children should attend schools closer to home, (2) special consideration should be given to integrated areas so that those children could attend nearby schools, and (3) in so doing, the school system should not be resegregated.

Whatever the individual plea, it was met with enthusiastic support somewhere in the audience. Greenbelter Dick French brought forth the loudest and most widespread applause. As he related to the board Greenbriar's problem of being assigned to three schools in three years, he focused everyone's fears into a single point. "It is called DISRUPTION!" he said, in an emotional high point. The same point was made in dozens of different ways during the evening.

Problems

On busing — there were parents from Good Luck Estates, whose children have been bused out of the neighborhood for five years. They now want their children to come back home. "We've paid our dues," they said.

In an integrated neighborhood, where children could walk to two out of three schools, children are bused 10 miles away. These parents, too, want their children back home.

But in black Seat Pleasant, parents preferred (2-1) to continue busing their children to integrated Springhill Lake School.

There were also some cases of students, who now walk to school, being bused out of their neighborhood under the new plans and parents objected.

On integration — here too, opinions varied according to circumstance. Some urged the board to continue its policy of integration, "Keep the system as it is," they said. "We lived through the tumult of busing and are happy and want our children to stay where they are." Integration, they said, was too important to risk at this time. Greenbelt teacher Katherine Keene spoke of the improvements she has seen in her students. "Clearly black students do better in integrated schools," was the way one parent put it. Many feared a decline in the quality of education in the predominantly black schools anticipated under either plan.

In the integrated neighborhoods, some blacks took a slightly different view. While still desiring an integrated school system, they wanted their children to be able to walk to neighborhood schools "... weigh integration heavily along with neighborhood schools" said Paul Palistrant of Takoma Park.

On Communities — the word "community" was used to represent a geographic entity and a school

population. Parents feared the effect of disruption from a strong community. More than 30 parents from Lamont, a New Carrollton school scheduled for closing, were there to object to the "fragmentation of their school community." They had worked hard to develop that community and were anguished at the thought of losing it.

In a different set of circumstances, some parents were equally distraught that their geographic community, now integrated, would be split down the middle and their children sent to two schools. Those children have attended Carole Highlands for 26 years, they said.

Edna Gross lives in a small community with only 25 elementary-age children. She urged the board to send these children to one school, not two or three.

Solutions

Few speakers offered solutions beyond those needed for particular problems. And here Greenbelters led the way. "I oppose plans 1 and 2, but endorse their ends," said French. He challenged the board to have "the wisdom and character to keep pursuing the goals of community schools, reduced busing, and rewarding integrated neighborhoods." Many others called for some kind of a "third" plan. "We need to resolve our differences," said Robert Drew. But many felt that busing alone could not achieve these objectives.

Some suggested a two pronged approach: (1) send as many children as possible to nearby schools, maintaining some kind of integration guidelines (10-50% or 20-60% black enrollment); (2) find other types of solutions for those schools that would be predominantly of one race.

Civil Liberties Union member Mary Terchek stated: "We think it highly appropriate to reward communities which (have become) naturally integrated." Many speakers shared that view. The problems center around what approaches to take in the all black and all white areas.

Pairing

"I would suggest pairing and clustering," said J. Briscoe, "with an equal exchange of students to be bussed . . ." If there is going to be busing, it must be shared by all communities," added Jordan Choper, Woodway Association (Greenbelt).

Others called for magnet and middle schools, "perhaps in the all black neighborhoods; utilize a programmatic approach," said another.

Several speakers told the board it would be necessary to handle problems on a case-by-case basis. "Treat areas individually," said one parent, "to determine what is best for the enrollment in that area." Montpelier PTA Vice-president Val Kaplan told the board it was "attempting a simplistic solution to a complex problem . . . You cannot treat the entire county as a monolithic whole." In her area, she continued, much new housing has been started. Any plans for changing school boundaries should "wait until the construction dust settles and then invite community participation so that the changes would have a chance of public acceptance." Greenbelters called for a "broad-based citizens advisory group" to participate in any third plan which might be developed by the school staff.

Another Greenbeler, Muriel Weidenfeld, wrapped it all up for the board when she said, "What makes more sense than looking at all these considerations as one marvelous opportunity for educational improvements, variations, innovations, options, choices, experiments to produce a long-range, comprehensive policy focused on improvement in the quality of education."

Also contributing to the article was Elaine Skolnik.

Md. Resident Tag Renewal

The Motor Vehicle Administration reminds Maryland motorists that 1978 tag validation stickers for passenger vehicles and motorcycles are available at MVA offices throughout the state.

As of March 1, motorists may attach the stickers to the upper right-hand corner of passenger vehicle tags and the lower right-hand corner of motorcycle tags. The stickers are pressure-sensitive and should not be moistened.

Vehicle owners who have not yet received their tag renewal applications should contact the MVA immediately, giving their tag number, the vehicle title and vehicle identification number (serial number), full name, and present address. This information is necessary to enable the computer-printer to print correct applications. For further information, motorists should contact the MVA branch office in College Park, 5112 Berwyn Rd. or they may call the Glen Burnie tag renewal information number . . . 768-1800.

Parents Who Need Help

Parents who have severe difficulty raising their children, or who have committed child abuse, may find help through a new program at Prince Georges General Hospital and Medical Center.

The program provides for "Parent-aides," trained professional counselors, to visit parents in their homes to provide support and help in coping with the problems of raising children. Parent-aides are available in times of crises, and can be reached weekends and evenings.

Dr. Burton Schonfeld, Director of the Program, says, "the program is preventive in nature as well. Parents who consider themselves at risk in coping with the stresses of child rearing may also benefit from this program."

The federally funded program is available to any parent in the community at no cost.

Parents who desire further information should contact Parent-aide Supervisor Stephen Harvith at 341-4982.



Committee OK's Bill To Provide \$55,000 Police Aid for City

The House Ways and Means Committee approved a bill by Del. Gerard F. Devlin, (24th District) which would provide an additional \$55,000 in the next fiscal year for the City of Greenbelt for police aid.

The Devlin Bill is part of a comprehensive program which would cut property tax assessments by 10%.

Devlin's measure would provide \$13 million to the counties and cities to offset losses in the assessable base resulting from the property tax rollback.

The Police Aid bill provides \$8.5 million to the Prince George's County Government and \$355,000 to be divided among the County's 22 municipalities which either have local police forces or hire policemen on a contract basis.

"I am very pleased that I am able to deliver for the people of Greenbelt. I expect easy House approval for this measure and I hope the Senate does the same," Devlin said.

A second Devlin bill will increase significantly the amount of money Greenbelt receives from the Highway Users Trust Fund. The measure, which has administration support, is expected to be reported out of the House Ways and Means Committee within a few days.

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Twin Pines Newsletter

Twin Pines
Savings & Loan Assn.

Greenbelt Shopping Center
Greenbelt, Maryland

Annual Meeting March 28

Next Tuesday, March 28, Twin Pines will hold its 21st annual meeting. The meeting will be held in the City Council meeting room at 8 p.m. Members are asked to arrive between 7:30 and 8:00 so that the check-in process can be completed by the time of the meeting.

The Membership meeting marks the return to One Member-One Vote elections for Twin Pines. The State legislation and our recent By-Law changes made this possible. A joint committee of Board, Member Relations Committee and Nominations and Elections Committee Members have planned procedures that are expected to operate smoothly.

A mailed meeting notice has been sent to all members, but because of time limitations, members received one notice for each voting account, instead of only one notice for each member. Because actual eligibility will be established at the meeting, so that, in fact, each member will only be allowed one vote, as prescribed in the current bylaws.

An additional problem concerns joint accounts, that is, accounts held equally by two or more members. Because of limitations caused by the computer, only one ballot was mailed for each of these accounts, although they are entitled to one vote for each share of \$100, up to the number of account holders. If this poses a problem, members are asked to contact the Twin Pines office, where the account can be verified, and additional ballots can be issued, if necessary. This

position of Twin Pines with regard to refinancing. The procedure is to accept applications to refinance home loans for "good reasons (that) have included modified payment plans, education loans, mobile home loans, auto loans, modification and consolidation of debt loans, home improvement loans and other loans with property securing the loans." It was further decided that it is not the policy of the Association to accept applications to refinance for the express purpose of lowering the interest rate. The details and reasons behind this policy will be available at the meeting.

Finally, although not formal business, the meeting will include the awarding of four door prizes of \$100, \$75, \$50, and \$25 each. There will, of course, be light refreshments.

The Twin Pines Annual Meeting is a unique opportunity to participate in operating one of the important financial institutions of our community. The Member Relations Committee hopes that each member will use this opportunity fully by attending the meeting. If that is not possible, exercise your franchise by carefully using the material that has been mailed.

This newsletter was prepared by the Member Relations Committee of Twin Pines, for the purpose of informing the membership of the upcoming annual meeting. If you have any questions, please call us. George R. Jones, chairman - 474-6001.

Bob Greig - 474-0332
Tom Martin

CLASSIFIED

\$1.50 for a 10 word minimum. 10c each additional word. Submit ads in writing, accompanied by cash payment to the News Review office at 15 Parkway before 10 p.m. of the Tuesday preceding publication, or to the Twin Pines Savings and Loan office before 4 p.m. Tuesdays. There is no charge for advertising items that are found.

CALDWELL'S WASHER SERVICE. All makes expertly repaired. Authorized Whirlpool dealer. GR 4-5515.

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Expert antenna man will install new/repair antenna for

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Evenings
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PIANO TUNING AND REPAIR G. Daniel, 262-2448.

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VACUUM CLEANER REPAIR All brands and types. Call evenings, 474-5530.

HOUSE DOCTOR

Expert craftsman will replace broken window glass, misc. electrical jobs, wall patching, ceramic tile, etc. Assemble sheds and yard duties. Call evenings.

474-5530

TYPEWRITER OR ADDING MACHINE \$30 & UP. HOWARD'S TYPEWRITER CO., 5111 BALTIMORE AVE., HYATTSVILLE, MD. 277-8333.

PAINTING - Interior, exterior wallpapering and light carpentry also. Good Greenbelt references, excellent workmanship. Frank Gomez. 474-3814.

APPLIANCE REPAIR - Washers, dryers, dishwashers, garbage disposals, trash compactors, etc. **WEAVER APPLIANCE REPAIR SERVICE.** 552-1119.

HANSEN PLUMBING & HEATING - 14C Hillside Rd., Greenbelt. 345-5837. Bonded, licensed, small home jobs.

FOUND - Greenbelt's Animal Warden finds stray animals every week. If your pet is lost, check with the police dept. 474-5454.

LAMPS REPAIRED - Floor and table types. Evenings, 474-5530.

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FEDERAL AND STATE TAX RETURNS prepared in your home. CALL MR. GINSBERG 774-3610.

SEWING MACHINE REPAIRS - Call Dan Nascembeni, 474-7379.

ZENITH 19" TV - Black & white, perfect condition. \$50. 474-3145.

ARTEX - ELVIS IS HERE. Call your Greenbelt instructor evenings and weekends. Jackie, 345-1086.

FOR SALE: Table, chairs, hutch server - 3 piece bedroom set, excellent condition. 474-2203.

WANTED - Civil war guns, swords, relics, related items. Call 474-7932.

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FOR SALE - 2 girls 3-speed bikes; venetian blinds from GHI house. Call Friday or weekend, 474-6265.

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PERSONAL TAX RETURNS - Small business & professional book-keeping services. Accurate fast services & reasonable rates. Call 345-8386.

SPRING YARD WORK - 15 year old willing to do yard cleanup and other odd jobs. \$8/hr. Call Mark, 345-7457.

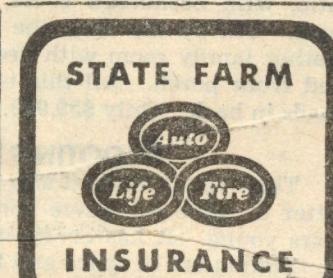
Summer Help Wanted

The City of Greenbelt is accepting applications for summer work in the Parks and Public Works Departments from high school and college students, at least 16 yrs. of age. Apply at City Office, 25 Crescent Road (474-8000), Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The City is an equal opportunity employer.

FOR SALE - Chandelier (5 lamps). New cost \$75., sacrifice for \$50. Call after 5 p.m., 474-3492.

BABYSITTING - Have yard and TLC. 459-2094.

FOR SALE: Kenmore washer, working cond. \$40. Call 345-3583, evenings.



For Insurance Call:

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9200 Edmonston Rd.
Greenbelt, Md. 20770

474-5007

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LOST - Small gray tabby female cat. Lost Boxwood Village area 2 weeks ago. \$5. reward. 474-1275.

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Recreation Review**Easter Egg Hunt**

Parents, Pre-Schoolers thru Sixth Graders are invited to participate in the Annual Easter Egg Hunt which will be held at the Greenbelt Lake Park, 9 a.m. sharp on Monday, March 27.

Centers' Easter Holiday Schedule

The Youth Center and Springhill Lake Recreation Center will open at 12 noon on Friday, March 24 and Monday thru Friday, March 27-31 to accommodate vacationing youths and adults.

Kite Flying Contest

OK Kids, let's get those kites ready. The Annual Kite Flying Contest is rescheduled for Saturday, April 1 at 12 noon. Prizes will be awarded in various categories. In case of rain, the event will be cancelled for 1978. For further details, call the Recreation Department Business Office, Monday-Friday, 9-5 p.m., 474-6878.

Roller Skating Program Closes

Spring has arrived and it is time to move outdoors. This week was the last of the Winter Roller Skating Program.

Tennis Court Use

With the warming weather, the city's courts are in heavy demand. Tennis players are advised to check posted rules and regulations for court use as well as schedules for lessons and tournaments to avoid inconveniences.

Spring Class Registration

Plan now to register for the Recreation Department's Spring Leisure Time Activities on Monday, March 27, 7-9 p.m. at the Springhill Lake Recreation Center; Tuesday, March 28, 7-9 p.m. at the Greenbelt Youth Center and Wednesday, March 29, 3-5 p.m. at the Youth Center. See the program offered in this issue of the News Review. For further information, call 474-6878, Monday thru Friday, 9-5 p.m.

Weight Lifting Club

In order to continue membership in the Weight Lifting Club the membership card must be renewed. A nominal fee is charged.

Bill Exempts Youth**Sports From Tax**

The House of Delegates has passed and sent to the Senate a bill by Gerard F. Devlin (D-P.G.) which would exempt from the state sales tax youth sports groups.

The bill has strong backing from leaders of youth sports groups in Greenbelt.

"I am very pleased that the House has seen fit to pass my bill. Nothing does a better job of fighting juvenile delinquency than a good sports program which emphasizes participation for all and all our local programs are based on this principle," Devlin said. "Any encouragement that the General Assembly can give to these programs is in the best interests of the State, and the 5% savings achieved from removing the sales tax will certainly be helpful to many youngsters and their parents."

Our Neighbors

Raymond Haber, 1-G. Westway, recently retired from the Office of Secretary of Defense after 38 years of creditable civilian service and Martha Kaufman, 45-K Ridge Road, retired from the Department of Air Force after 31 years of creditable civilian service. Happy retirement to both.

Congratulations to Mary Clarke 5-C Laurel Hill, who has been accepted at Georgetown University Law School.

Alissa Regen, a pink bundle, weighing 6 lbs. 9 oz arrived Thursday, March 2. Her proud parents are Judy and Tom Skillman. Maternal grandparents are long-time Greenbelters Bernice and Sid Kastner. Paternal grandparents, Winnie and Tom Skillman, also long-time residents, retired and moved to Sequim, Washington about 7 years ago. They are currently visiting Winnie's native Australia — her first trip back in many years. Judy was frequently a summer worker on the News Review. Grandparents Bernice and Sid are both long time staffers. Congratulations!

A birthday party was given for Caroline Perini 73-K Ridge Road, by her daughter Catherine and Catherine's friends — Lori Baker, Collene Collins, Joy Cousins, Sara Mayer and Kathleen Moien.

Airman First Class Roy L. Fincham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert L. Fincham of 2-A Laurel Hill Road, has arrived for duty at Andrews AFB, Md.

Greenbelters Ira Greenburg placed third with a time of 4.062 seconds in the Men's (33-39 age class) giant slalom course at the 12th Citizen Race at Jack Frost Mountain, White Haven, Pa.

The Phi Beta Kappa chapter at the University of Oklahoma has selected Linda Diane Kristoff Webster, daughter of Shirley H. Adams, Cherrywood, for membership in this honorary society.

Marine Private First Class Gus M. Malakatis, son of George M. Malakatis of Lakecrest Dr. has completed the Tracked Vehicle Repairman course at Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Last week's duplicate bridge winners were Ruth Schuetze and Doris Johnson with 57 pts. Runners up in 2nd place with 51 pts. were Shirley Bryant and Virginia Beauchamp and 3rd place with 47 pts. were Peg Wainscott and Gretchen Eanes.

Ethel Gerring of Greenbelt was recently honored as one of Nyman Realty's Top Ten Sales Associates.

Martin Evans, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Palmer of 7 Fayette Place, helped lead the Capitol Beltway Boys Bantam B Maryland hockey team to 1977-78 Capitol Beltway Bantam B Hockey League Championship. Competition ended last week.

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It's a boy for Mr. and Mrs. John Creamer, 9014 Breezewood Terr. Clayton Bayne was born on January 28 weighing 7 lbs. 1 oz. He joins a brother Clint Marshall age 4. (Sorry the facts in the issue of Feb. 16 were incorrect.)

Greenbelt resident Elizabeth Lubukas has been selected as a Kennedy Foundation intern by the Park and Planning Commission's Department of Parks and Recreation, and has been assigned to the Special Services program as a therapeutic aide. Lubukas is a graduate of Bowie Special Center and is currently associated with the Vocational Services Institute Workshop in Lanham.

Kathy and Richard Barr, 16-L Ridge, are the proud parents of a son. Stephen Richard was born March 12, and weighed in at 7 lbs. 9 ozs.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Cone, 33-M Ridge, are proud to announce the birth of Peter Ryan, on Feb. 24. He weighed in at a big 8 lbs. 7 ozs. and joins a sister, Kelly, 11½.

Marine Private First Class Daryl L. Hopkins, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Hopkins of 2C Plateau has completed a 7-week Motor Vehicle Operators Course at the Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C. He joined the Marine Corps in October 1977.

Herman Spicer III joins a sister, Ebun, 7 yrs. in the family of Herman and Irene Prescott. He was born on Feb. 24, weighing 7 lbs. 13 ozs. Welcome, little one!

Patrick G. Gardes, 124 Rosewood, has been admitted to begin studies in the Fall Semester as a freshman at Shepherd College, Shepherdstown, West Virginia. The son of John P. Gardes, he will graduate from Roosevelt High School in June.

William and Susan Wickes are the proud parents of a little pink bundle. Lara Kathleen was born Feb. 17, at 6 lbs. 14 ozs. She joins an older brother, Kenneth, 2½.

Congratulations to Helen McFarland and Rachel Turkiewicz for winning Honorable Mention Ratings at the Broad Creek Piano and Violin Competition on March 18.

Navy Fireman Recruit James L. Kensing, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Kensing of 23 Ridge is serving as a crewmember aboard the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Kitty Hawk, homeported in San Diego.

</div

Police Blotter

With warm weather again approaching, motorists are requested to watch for children playing near roadways and for bicyclists in the road. Bicyclists are advised that they must follow the same laws as motor vehicles when operating on roadways. Children should be warned by their parents to be careful when crossing streets, and never to chase balls that may roll into a street.

Investigation is continuing in a case of armed robbery of the Kay Jewelry Store at Beltway Plaza which occurred the evening of March 13. The store manager reported he was held up at gunpoint by three subjects, and approximately \$12,000 worth of jewelry was taken. Lookouts have been issued for the suspects and the missing jewelry.

Three breaking and enterings were reported last week. A residence on Ridge Road was entered while the resident was in another part of the house. A shoulder bag and its contents were stolen. An apartment in Springhill Lake was entered during the day, while the resident was at work; stereo equipment was taken. On March 12 the Methodist Church was entered and a movie projector, a record player and two microphone stands were stolen. Investigation is continuing in these cases.

The following incidents occurred during the last week in February and first two weeks in March.

A dump truck with attached flatbed trailer was reported stolen from a construction site in the city. The truck and trailer were recovered the same afternoon by county police at a turf farm in Bowie. A motorcycle was stolen from Springhill Lake and a 1977 Ford was reported stolen from Greenbriar. Lookouts have been issued for the last two vehicles.

At approximately 1 a.m. Monday morning, Officer Craddock while on a routine building check found that the Co-op Exval Service Station had been broken into. During a check of the building Cpl. Miskell observed one person still inside, a 17 year old youth from Bladensburg who was apprehended with approximately \$250 worth of stolen property in his possession. As a result of more extensive investigation, two juvenile male residents of University Square, aged 16 and 14, were also charged by PFC Cecarelli. Charges included breaking and entering, receiving stolen property and vandalism. An estimated \$3,000 in vandalism was done to the station. Juvenile Court action is pending.

Officer Ricucci, after receiving a complaint of someone tampering with cars on Northway Road, apprehended a 16 year old resident. He also apprehended a 14 year old female resident after receiving a complaint that she had assaulted a 13 year old female resident. Juvenile Court action in both incidents are pending.

After receiving a complaint of a subject banging on a resident's door on Lakecrest, Officer O'Neill apprehended a 26 year old male resident, who was charged with disorderly intoxication.

Two local boys, 14 and 15, were apprehended after breaking several windows in the home of two residents. Both were charged and Juvenile Court action is pending. Two female juveniles reported as runaways have returned home.

Three breaking and enterings were reported. A home on Pinecrest Court was entered; nothing was reported taken. A resident's home on Laurel Hill was entered while she was out for a few hours and over \$100 in cash was taken. The carwash at Beltway Plaza was broken into during the late night hours; \$100 and a weapon were reported stolen.

Thirty cars parked in the Springhill Lake area were vandalized during the early hours on Feb. 25. In the majority of vehicles, the driver's window was broken with possibly a BB or pellet gun.

A pay telephone was removed by unknown culprits from the lobby of the Youth Center.

Sgt. Coombes and Officer Watkins attended a two day seminar at the University of Delaware. The seminar was entitled Community Crime Prevention.

Interview with Mayor Pilski

by Barbara Marshall

"I don't have a heavy schedule, I just utilize my time," said Greenbelt's Richard Pilski, out of breath. He had just entered his house, on time for the interview, carrying groceries with his wife, Claire.

Besides serving his 14th year as Mayor, Pilski handles looseleaf tax accounts for the Prentice-Hall Publishing Company and teaches business marketing and salesmanship at Prince George's Community College.

"Teaching in my 'golden years' is like an ego trip for me. I have developed a new outlook by dealing with young people," said Pilski, a young 53 years old.

The mayor grew up in Kingston, Pennsylvania and was graduated from Syracuse University in New York. Pilski met his wife in her home town of Jim Thorpe, Pennsylvania, while he was a traveling salesman, "which embarrasses my daughter," he said laughing.

Pilski came to Hyattsville in 1955 when he was regional manager for the American Tobacco Company. He moved to Greenbelt in 1959.

Pilski has served seven terms on the Greenbelt City Council as a moderate conservative in a liberal town. He enjoys being active, involved and making decisions with confidence. Pilski said he was naive at first but learned as he went along. Being in politics is a maturing process and one must be able to change, he said.

"I have no doubts about my abilities, my ego will carry them through. And as long as you're honest with yourself you'll never regret a decision," said Pilski philosophizing on his success. Through the years his greatest asset in politics has been his wife Claire, he said, because she has an intuition only women possess.

Pilski is very proud of the Federally subsidized 100 units of housing for the elderly in Greenbelt.

"This country does not utilize old people. We tell them to stop working at 65 and push them aside," said the mayor. "It's a waste of talent. Greenbelt wants to have active old people. That's why we have a recreation center for senior citizens that is run by them. They have an identity in Greenbelt."

Pilski enthusiastically went on to say, "This country is a world. If one can identify with their community, it's the first step to identifying with their government. That's why in Greenbelt you're a part of something. Everyone has a piece of the action. That's also why Greenbelt has the largest recreation program in the state of Maryland and the community with the greatest number of volunteers."

On the opposite side of the coin, Pilski fears that young people are being forced to leave the Greenbelt area due to the high cost of housing.

"We can't afford to keep young people here and we don't have the land to build low cost housing," said Pilski.

As for the controversial Golden Triangle, "I'll never feel good about it. The revenues to be made from that property do not matter because you can never compensate for poor planning," he said forcefully.

Pilski said he would have preferred something with a more "prestigious industry type character, like a national corporation."

"I'm a skeptic of the whole development," said Pilski, brushing the air with his hand. He prefers to do things when the time is right, when he feels confident in the people he is dealing with. However, "there would be no progress if we didn't make mistakes," he said.

Seeing Greenbelt grow over the years from a small rural planned community to a modern suburban city gives Pilski a "great feeling to be a cause of progress."

Jobs for Senior Citizens

Senior citizens in Greenbelt who are interested in part-time employment within the community have an opportunity to apply for jobs as senior aides. Senior aides work in community outreach programs, senior centers, housing projects, hospitals and homes. They usually work 20 hours a week for \$3 an hour.

Under a federal grant, the county's Department of Services and Programs for the Aging has 50 new positions to fill. Seniors accepted for these positions will be placed, if at all possible, in their own communities. There are even some positions for "homebound" seniors.

Further information on this program can be obtained from Sandra Barnes, 474-0720, Greenbelt Homes Inc. Coordinator of Member Services, or Jim Foley at the Dept of Aging, 350-6666. GHI hopes that a few seniors might be placed in GHI to work on developing programs for the elderly within the cooperative.

The county hopes to fill these jobs by March 31.

B-W Parkway Truck Ban Bill Passes Senate

A bill prohibiting truck traffic on the Baltimore-Washington Parkway south of Maryland Route 175 after the Federal Government transfers this portion to the state passed the entire Senate and will now go to the House of Delegates. The bill was sponsored by Senator Arthur Dorman and originated in the Maryland Senate Constitutional and Public Law Committee, chaired by Senator Edward T. Conroy.

The Baltimore-Washington Parkway will be turned over to the State of Maryland by the U. S. Department of Interior over a period of ten years, as the Parkway is upgraded to Federal Interstate standards. The State, however, estimates that approximately four million dollars in additional construction costs would be avoided if the Parkway is not graded to accept truck traffic.

According to Slade Coltrider of the State Highway Administration, the State will not permit truck traffic, no matter how much reconstruction is done. Meanwhile, engineering and environmental evaluations may be extended for another year.

A major part of progress nowadays is Metro, to move large segments of people. "Greenbelt is one of the few communities saying, 'Give us Metro. Don't leave us out,'" said Pilski smiling.

Two politicians that Pilski admires very much are Richard J. Daley and Harry Truman.

"Daley because he got things done and threw out the insignificant parts that politicians busy themselves with," said Pilski. "But Truman is the man I pattern myself after. He was knowledgeable and had human feelings. Simple human feelings."

(Barbara Marshall is a journalism student at the University of Maryland. The above interview was an assignment for a news-writing class.)

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Greenbelt News Review

Section 2

Thursday, March 23, 1978

Paid Up!

Another Spur to Greenbelt Pride

By Michael Knepler

(The following article is reprinted in full with permission from the Washington Star.)

Greenbelt residents are a prideful bunch — so much so that one of their kind, City Councilman Charlie Schwan, terms their attitude "almost damn chauvinistic."

And seldom has that attitude — which calls for a good deal of self-celebration and "talking up" of their city — been more in evidence than a few weekends ago when many Greenbelters commemorated the 25th anniversary of the cooperatively owned housing situated near the center of the city.

The occasion also marked the retirement of a 25-year, \$6-million debt to the federal government. A co-op, Greenbelt Homes, Inc. bought the city from the government when Greenbelt was a federal housing project area.

Since then the city has expanded beyond the original cooperative community, so that Greenbelt and GHI are no longer synonymous. GHI now houses about 3,500 of the city's 20,000 residents.

The ceremony, which took place at the Eleanor Roosevelt High School, inspired a gushing of memories of how Greenbelt was founded more than 40 years ago as America's first planned community.

Greenbelt was one of three new "green towns" that were to combine the best of country and city life.

An important aspect of the plan was to encircle the new town with a belt of country greenery, a protection from overcrowding. The design and the circuitous layout of the community's inner neighborhoods are cited as two reasons why Greenbelters have had a strong collective identity from the beginning.

"They needed it, too," Schwan explained, recalling that controversy surrounded Greenbelt from its start as a New Deal employment and housing project at a time when many people disapproved of governments' entry into the housing market.

"The residents had a defensive attitude. They had to rally around each other covered-wagon style," Schwan said. The tradition of mutual support seems to have continued to this day, touching all phases of Greenbelt life.

"It's a good community. People here are concerned," Leo Gerton, a resident for 25 years said. "We like to talk up the city. There are very few places now where the people talk up a city."

Gerton also recalled how Greenbelters banded together about 10 years ago to aid his family and others who were left homeless after a fire destroyed their apartment building.

"They gave us everything — food, clothing, all kinds of help. If there's an emergency there's no place like this. When there's something to be done, no questions are asked. It's got to be done. It's for your community."

Newer residents, too, talk about how the community greets them.

"The sense of spirit people here have for each other is amazing," Charlie Sokol, a resident for two years, said. "This is the first place we've lived in the county (Prince George's) where the people really make you feel welcome. All they ask you is to get involved."

Another newcomer is Paul Pickering, who's lived in the city's new Greenbriar condominium section for a little more than three years.

Pickering said he likes Greenbelt because it reminds him of a small Iowa town where he was raised. "You go to the center of town and will see people in groups talking to each other. You just don't see that elsewhere," he said.

Pickering, an elected leader of the Greenbriar development, is involved in trying to build closer links between the newer section of the city and the old center of Greenbelt.

One proposal being aired is the construction of a pedestrian bridge over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway which divides Greenbriar from Greenbelt, just as the Capital Beltway and Kenilworth Avenue

WINTER SWIMMING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Golden Triangle Plans Progress

by Leta Mach

Development is continuing on the Greenbelt Golden Triangle. Plans for a five-story office building and a medical building are nearing completion. Negotiations for offices in the low-rise office buildings are being held with national companies according to Kenneth Michael, owner-representative of the Triangle. When asked about plans for a motel, Michael stated that there was "no commitment there." He also noted that there are no plans for a gas station.

Michael is also negotiating with Berk Motley, Jr. to locate a restaurant on the Triangle. Although Michael indicated the restaurant would be similar to one in Texas, Motley was reluctant to discuss details until the negotiations were concluded, possibly in a few weeks. However, Motley did say it would be "different, unique, and exciting."

Work on a five-story, "first class" office building to serve as headquarters of the Kenneth H. Michael Companies will commence in the spring. The 60,000 square feet, all brick building will have a domed roof and a center atrium planted with trees. Michael emphasized that there is "nothing like it in the county now."

Plans for a medical condominium building with 40-50 units are being drawn now. Approximately thirty doctors have already signed up to buy the units. All types of medical specialties will be available in the facility. The building will be located next to Capital Cadillac. Like the five-story office building, it should be finished in about one year.

When the weather clears, paving the roads at the triangle site should begin. Before that, however, utility lines will have to be laid. This work will involve the Washington Suburban Sanitary Commission.

The Capital Cadillac building will probably be completed in the late fall.

Grading on the tract has been slow because of the weather. However, a lot of fill has been given to Greenbelt for use on the Elderly Housing Project. Michael stated that the developer had to clear a lot to "compact and fill the low areas" on the triangle. To aid in grading the five acres of land on the eastern edge of the triangle reserved for a possible ramp to the Baltimore-Washington Parkway, the State Highway Administration gave the developers a rough, preliminary plan for the possible ramp.

Slade Caltrider from the State Highway Administration said that the state hopes to acquire the five acres reserved for a possible ramp through negotiations now in progress.

Science Fair Winners

Greenbelter Janet Lewis was the Third Grand Prize winner at the Eleanor Roosevelt Senior High School's science fair on March 11 and 12.

The daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Robert Lewis, Gardenway, Janet won first place in Botany and the third grand prize for her project on "Sodium Chloride on Plants."

Janet, a senior at Roosevelt and a winner for the second year, will now enter the regional science fair.

First Grand Prize winner was Steven Lloyd from District Heights with "The Spectrochronometer" and David Fuchs from Laurel was second grand prize winner with "Pre-Clinical Testing of Taxo 1."

Other winners from Greenbelt were: 2nd in Behavioral Sciences, Colette Zanin, "Do People Remember Their Dreams?"; 2nd in Engineering, Charles Andraka, "Which Weld Works When?"; 1st in Communication Sciences, Ilana Stern, "Ludwig Von Univa"; 2nd, Ray Andraka, "What's Quicker than Qwerty?"

Of the more than one hundred entries in the science fair, one was about Greenbelt. First prize in Planning and Architecture was won by Pamela Quarry from Laurel on the theme of ideas for the use of Greenbelt's Common Areas.

GHI Board Looks into Sources of Support For Rehabilitation, Resales

by Sid Kastner

The continuing process of setting up a rehabilitation program for Greenbelt Homes' physical plant, and a new source of support for financing resales of GHI homes, were the main items under discussion at Thursday evening's regular board meeting. A final set of pet regulations — and a definite procedure for their enforcement — were adopted, also; and the board and staff gave much consideration to the question of whether GHI should join a new local grouping of cooperatives.

The board has been acting on a number of governmental fronts, to seek financial relief for GHI members in view of the inevitable costs of rehabilitation. A formal letter has been sent to city council asking the city's support for Housing Assistance Payments from the Department of Housing and Urban Development (under Section 8 of that agency's authorization); the letter notes that such funds will "enable our more moderate income households to afford the costs of rehabilitation". The same point was made in a presentation last Friday by director Mary Clarke and Assistant manager Kenneth Kopstein to the state Senate's Budget and Taxation Committee, which is presently considering a bill to ease property tax assessments on residential property which is being rehabilitated. Clarke and Kopstein made the further point that the bill would "create a significant incentive for rehabilitation by relieving increased tax burdens for homeowners who seek to reverse deterioration in their neighborhoods", and because at the present rate of increase of property taxes, the extra tax burden annually on each family would be about \$200; this would be added to the likely cost of rehabilitation, which is presently expected to range from roughly \$600 to \$900 per year.

Pet Regulations

The manager and his staff have developed a ten-point set of regulations concerning ownership of pets by members, as a result of recent board and member conferences; the regulations essentially outline responsibilities such as cleanliness, avoidance of nuisance to others and noise control. Along with these regulations, the staff now proposed an eight-step procedure to follow on receiving complaints about a pet. The Member Complaints committee would play an important part in hearing both sides of the case before more drastic action would be called for. The pet regulations were formally adopted by the board, together with the complaint procedure which was modified somewhat to speed up corrective measures.

A member living in 59 Court Ridge has requested GHI approval for an addition with an adjacent separate fireplace connected to the living room. The fireplace's metal smokestack would run up the outside wall. Though the manager said that the composite structure complied with the corporation's regulations in general, there was much negative reaction from board members. Directors Margaret Hogen-son and Clarke questioned the addition's design on esthetic grounds, while director Norman Weyel worried about the safety aspect of the outside smokestack and cited published articles which said a "fireplace is an expensive toy". Director Wayne Williams was concerned whether it might add to the corporation's insurance cost, and director Stephen Polaschik went still further and opposed the fireplace outright. The board however did not turn down the member's application, but instead referred it to the Aesthetics and Environment committee to work jointly with the member for improvement of the design.

Near the end of the meeting, the manager brought up a question as to whether GHI should join the new local Potomac Association of Housing Cooperatives (PAHC), organized last year and composed of nine cooperative housing associations (like GHI) located in Maryland, Virginia and D.C. Breashears and Kopstein were generally in favor of this, especially the latter who explained that PAHC has a professional staff whose emphasis is on education and training of co-op directors and members. Director Weyel expressed some concern about the unknowns of the new organization, and others asked whether GHI's present affiliation with Eastern Cooperative Housing Organization (ECHO) would be affected. When these board members were reassured that joining the new organization would not interfere with GHI's present contacts — chairman Smith and former director Charles Schwan also spoke in favor of the step — a motion by Hogen-son was passed to join PAHC for a trial period of one year.

Board Meeting Ch'ng

The P.G. County Board of Education's second regular meeting in March will be held on Wednesday, March 29, beginning at 3 p.m. in the Board Meeting Room in Upper Marlboro. This is a change in date due to a scheduling conflict.

Excerpts of Statements Presented

James W. Smith

President,
Greenbelt Homes, Inc.
(Statement read)

I'd like to ask you to stop and think about what you have actually heard people say during these six public hearings. Here is a summary:

1. Greenbelt, like south Laurel, has an area of rapid housing growth—Greenbriar. Problem: population projections were not used in determining school attendance zones. Result: some zones will probably not permit students, once moved this fall, to stay put until they graduate from sixth grade. Solution: these specific areas must be re-worked to provide attendance zones that can remain stable for five to six years, at the minimum.

2. Many black students and a few white ones (from Greenbelt) would be bused 9 to 12 miles. Problem: long-distance busing has many faults. Solution: the board should put an upper limit on the number of miles a child must ride the bus—I would suggest 4 or 5, maybe even 6, but not more.

3. The staff relied too much on one-way busing of the black students to integrate the all-white schools. Problem: this is unfair... Solution: I would suggest pairing or clustering, with an equal exchange of students to be bused between racially unbalanced black and white schools.

4. A number of integrated neighborhoods (Springhill Lake, Boxwood) are bused miles from home to help integrate the all-black schools. Problem: these are the very neighborhoods that are supposed to receive special consideration. Solution: these neighborhoods, above all others, should receive their reward. In some cases, busing to the next nearest school may be a necessary compromise, but not half way across the county.

5. The educators on your staff have not been brought in to the process of designing the overall plan.... There are excellent opportunities here for enriching the educational program with magnet schools and middle schools, etc.

These kinds of problems can be solved. You can do it. It requires effort to work through the details—to get an equitable plan for all. But with the right direction from the members of the board, your very capable staff, assisted by a broad-based citizens advisory group, can come up with a plan the public can live with and accept....

Greenbelt Homes, Inc.

(Statement presented in writing)
Greenbelt Homes, Inc., GHI, is a cooperatively owned corporation... of 3500 people. It is the older, central portion of the city. All elementary school children of GHI are within walking distance of either Center School or North End....

In the past three years, new members of GHI have included a disproportionately large percentage of younger people compared to... the previous 6-7 years. I should like to stress that, communities renew themselves....

In January, consultants engaged by GHI completed a study and proposed a multi-year, multi-million dollar renovation program... assisted (by federal and county grants). It is ironic that one arm of county government is assisting in the preservation and rehabilitation of our historic community. Another proposes to sever a limb.

Make no mistake, closing North End School amounts to nothing less than wounding severely the GHI community... The closing of the school will make GHI homes and others in the (area)... less attractive to current and potential residents who have elementary school children....

In coming here, you may have noticed there are three new subdivisions (2000 units) under construc-

tion all within the City of Greenbelt. Why do Plans 1 and 2 rely on September 1977 school enrollment data?... There is not one word that either plan takes into consideration (these new) developments.

One week ago you voted to turn over to the county a large parcel of land in Greenbelt. It... (was a three-school site). Much of it had been acquired for a senior high school but is no longer needed, you are in the school that was constructed in its place. Now it is your judgment that neither of the other schools needs to be built. You may be right. Let me remind you, however, that the property was purchased only 12 years ago. You have determined that the Board of Education judgment of that date was fallible. How will you defend your decisions if you accept as your statistical base outdated enrollment data?...

The role of the school in the community needs to be weighed in any decision to close a school.... The board should think long and hard before it determines to close any schools.

Admittedly the Board is under pressure to close underutilized schools to "save money".... To some people at least, a neighborhood in which the elementary school is closed would seem "blighted." Such being the case, how much was "saved," and at whose expense was it accomplished?

... Wisdom dictates you try again.

Kathy Palmerton

I have been an officer of North End PTA for the last 2 years and a parent volunteer for 3 years. I am the mother of an eight year old daughter who attends Greenbelt North End and a four year old son who will be attending North End next school year.

You, the school board, sit behind a table and decide to close our school. Not only under one plan, but two! One cannot believe what you want to do to our school. You want to take our children from our neighborhood school and put them in a school that is on the opposite end of town. My daughter walks 1½ short, safe blocks to school. There are always patrols on each corner and sidewalks all along the way. I feel very safe knowing that these two essentials are there for my child's safety and well being.

What kind of guarantee can you give me as to the safety and well being of my children, should they be forced to walk all the way across town to go to school. One can imagine the mile walk our children would have and the dangers. Perhaps a fast moving car or a disturbed person who picks up children walking or waiting to go to school. These dangers increase as the walk or wait increases.

Should our children go to Center school, that school would be at 97.7% of capacity. You may then discover that Center school is indeed overcrowded. Do you then decide to ship our children elsewhere? The effects on our children would be tragic. This situation would create a hardship on the school, principal, teachers and, yes, our children. This is not fair. You are not being fair to our children.

You are playing games with our children's education which means so very much to me as a parent and a concerned citizen. There is no reason why our children should be subjected to these conditions. You call this quality education? I don't.

Let's keep the quality of education our primary concern as well as our child's right to a good education. Keep our children in our own neighborhood school. Keep your minds open as to what is best for our children.

I suggest that more time be given to this study. You may then realize that closing North End is not the answer for Greenbelt's children. The answer is — leave North End school open.

Muriel Weidenfeld

As this last of six public hearings concludes, the board comes closer to the time for making its final decision on the demographic studies.

If I were faced with making that decision, I might by now have concluded that the weight of public opinion seemed to be strongly against the adoption of either plan and realizing that the plans could not pass court scrutiny without strong public support, I might by now have concluded that adoption of either plan was not feasible.

However, considerations of elementary school closings will have to be taken up sometime. And, in the near future, we hope to see a plan for a pilot middle school program. Also, we seem to be faced with declining enrollment in the junior high schools which might call for some consolidation of student populations on that level. And we still have the valid considerations of trying to reduce the number of children bused and the distances they travel, and the changes in racial composition of some areas of the county which have evolved as naturally integrated school populations.

Also, during these hearings, we have become aware of various plans used in cities and counties throughout the country to restructure formerly segregated school systems.

What makes more sense than looking at all these considerations as one marvelous opportunity for variations, innovations, choices, to produce a long-range, comprehensive policy focused on improvement in the quality of education.

I had the honor of being one of the community participants in the Board of Education's Task Force for the Eleanor Roosevelt high school. I saw every head of every department that would in any way affect the needs of the school (food, security, curriculum, equipment, staffing, guidance), have input into this task force. Every facet was covered by a skilled, trained professional member of this Board of Education's staff. They examined every aspect of this school and by a super-human effort equipped, programmed, staffed and opened this school in a few months. We in Greenbelt have had the opportunity to watch this venture into innovative, high-quality educational programs.

We have an opportunity now to draw together all of the enormous capabilities of our own professionals and our committed community leaders into a task force that can address itself — not to the isolated subject of school closings, but to the enormous challenge of molding our school system so it can offer incentives for every child, every teacher and every parent to want to participate.

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Mrs. E. C. Simonson

I live in Prince George's County. That fact alone makes it impossible for me to support either Plan I or II of the Demographic Alternatives Study. I also live in Greenbelt, and I have a son attending North End School.

Both plans are inequitable. Both plans would certainly resegregate the schools at the two extremes. Plan II, in particular, is arbitrary in splitting up neighborhoods to furnish populations to distant schools, with busing of 9 to 12 miles still occurring.

Both plans are inadequate and short-sighted. Both plans ignored population projections, closing schools in areas where new housing is being built and occupied. The result is certainly a destabilizing effect which would require reassignment of children in a year or two. Other worthy objectives, such as the junior high study, middle and magnet schools had not been considered. In short, neither plan allowed educational deliberations to intrude.

School closings are too important to be decided by the numbers game. This is a decision which affects our children and our community, and we are people, not mere numbers. In Mr. Saunders' letter to parents on March 3, he wrote, "... the Superintendent of Schools has said that if the study were implemented, he would not propose to us any additional elementary school closings for many years to come." Can he also promise us that the children themselves will not be shifted around and bused long distances to a school that can accommodate them? Take a look at Greenbriar; the children would attend their third school in as many years, and the odds of a fourth school the following year are very high. If this is stability and excellence, then both plans I and II are cruel hoaxes on Greenbelt in particular, and Prince George's County in general.

Close to home we found that Howard County has extensive use of the middle schools. John Adams middle school is in Alexandria; Montgomery County uses clustering and middle schools, and Washington and Arlington use Montessori schools as alternative programs.

There are many approaches a school board can take to deal with declining enrollment and integration... Get your educational advisors to develop a plan for our schools. No one ever has objected to their child being bused to an exciting and educationally sound institution, if they have had the opportunity to choose the program offered...

Patricia Barshay

... Declining enrollments, achievement of racial balance and quality of education are matters of concern to this and to many other school systems...

In Tulsa, the Oklahoma school system is under court order to desegregate. Enrollment in its 73 elementary schools is about 31,000 students (20.3% black). Their board of education established magnet schools and a middle school to foster racial integration and develop an educational program that is attractive to parents. There are waiting lists for admission to these schools. By and large stability in racial composition of schools has been achieved and enrollment has been held at its pre-decree level.

The Dade County, Florida system is similar in many respects to that of Prince George's County. Dade County, also under court decree, has 177 elementary schools (39% black, 61% white including Hispanic). Average distance of busing of elementary school children is 3-4 miles. Pairing, i.e., one school K-3 and the other 4-6 and clustering of up to six schools are devices that have been employed. So called "white flight" has not occurred, according to a spokesman for the board of education.

The Minneapolis public school system is almost unbelievably rich in the variety of educational opportunities it affords to the elementary school students...

Close to home we found that Howard County has extensive use of the middle schools. John Adams middle school is in Alexandria; Montgomery County uses clustering and middle schools, and Washington and Arlington use Montessori schools as alternative programs.

There are many approaches a school board can take to deal with declining enrollment and integration... Get your educational advisors to develop a plan for our schools. No one ever has objected to their child being bused to an exciting and educationally sound institution, if they have had the opportunity to choose the program offered...

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Before School Board on March 13

Dick French

Greenbriar residents

I oppose plans 1 and 2, but endorse their ends: a return to a community school system, reduced busing, naturally integrated neighborhoods . . . are all good honorable goals. I am sure that when plans 1 and 2 are defeated, you will still have the wisdom and character to keep pursuing the goals. But I hope you will learn not to clutter the issues with ill-conceived school closings such as North End or to have a plan which exists at the expense of a fine traditional community like Greenbelt.

I am here to point out that Greenbriar-Glen Oaks residents have been given the shaft--particularly the proposal that our children go to Magnolia . . . several miles away in a different town (Lanham). Our children now attend Center School in Greenbelt. From my son's experiences, I know Center is a fine school. Magnolia may be a good school, but somehow the change escapes the logic of reduced busing and community education . . . about Magnolia, it is fast approaching its capacity. . . . Greenbriar/Glen Oaks and Windsor Green are homes into which many young growing families are moving, and there have been no assurances made that our population won't bulge their enrollment above capacity.

should Magnolia become overcrowded, it would be more comfortable to reassign our children the short distance to North End. However, you have slated North End for closing because you claim it is under used.

Greenbriar has a black population of 30%. . . . as Mr. Van Schoonhoven, Center principal, said to me months before I ever heard of these demographic studies, Greenbriar children are an asset to Center school. Not only because they are good kids, but because they add to the smaller black enrollment of old Greenbelt. Well that must be as fine a reason to keep our children going to near-by Center school rather than distant Magnolia . . .

We in Greenbriar are a new community. . . less than four years old and still expanding. . . . the city has worked hard to make us feel part of the community. . . . our families are proud to live in Greenbelt, uses its library, park, lake, food stores, shopping center, churches, many recreational facilities; participate in its community life. . . . We think it's a good town to live in and we think it's a good town to educate our kids in. And Greenbriar people-- parents and kids alike--certainly have much more in common with Greenbelt than they do with Lanham.

Ironically these proposals come at a . . . time when the city has received federal commitment to construct a pedestrian/biker overpass over the Baltimore-Washington Parkway: the physical barrier to our becoming a closer part of the old Greenbelt community. The distance

from the bridge to Center school would become 4 blocks! So instead of allowing my son to keep attending the same school to grow as part of his community, to save tax dollars by eliminating the need for his school bus to come by at all each day for his short ride -- you'd have his school bus come by each day for his long ride! . . . Your plan would force a kid into keeping more than one peer group. One he lives with and one he meets miles away at school. . . . kids need roots too.

And that brings me to my final point . . . It is called disruption. If you move to a brand new community like ours, you enroll your child in a new school, that is called moving. If that child is reassigned to another school, that is called change. If that child is forced to change again and again, that is called living in Greenbriar. Greenbriar children have now been assigned to three schools in three years and . . . (probably a fourth in another year). I defy you to explain to me the logic of this pattern as being beneficial and to claim that this type of combined disruption is not harmful to a child's education or development. . . . Greenbelt deserves better.

Katherine Keene

I have been teaching in Prince George's County since 1955. I wish to say that I am in favor of integrated schools, and in favor of busing students to maintain integrated schools. I believe that the experiment in this county has not been a failure, but a success. I have observed improvements in the behavior of the black students; I have also observed improvement particularly in their speech and writing skills.

I am not saying that we have yet arrived at a totally satisfactory situation. We still have a subculture. But I am saying that the situation is slowly improving and that we cannot abandon it at this point to return to schools that are largely black or largely white. We have moved so far from where we were a few short years ago that it would be tragic to give up what we have achieved.

Progress is slow, but it is progress. Further, we have a responsibility to the United States to do what is in our power to do to ease racial tension and to stop the drift toward two societies in our country, and the only road we can take is the one that we have been taking, where the younger generation coming up does associate together in school and learn from one another and learn to accept each other as friends cooperating for the betterment of American civilization, not as enemies glaring across a gulf of cultural difference.

I do not say it is easy, or that we will reach the sunny uplands quickly. We are at least on the way and we have to keep going forward whether it is difficult or not.

Jordan J. Choper

Woodway Community

Plans 1 and 2 go against the spirit and letter of Judge Kaufman's decision which resulted in court imposed busing. In plan 2 you propose token busing . . . with the major burden . . . on Greenbelt and Region 6. If there is going to be busing for racial integration, then the burden must be borne by all . . . Why have you singled out Greenbelt and Berwyn Heights? . . . Is the Board of Education "red lining" specific communities in order to destroy political blocks? Is there collusion between you and the Board of Realtors? . . .

Plans 1 and 2 should be scrapped and the staff instructed to rethink the issue . . . But you do not need public hearings to show you this. If we as laymen can do this in our spare time you can do it in your regular time . . . In your quest to make points with the electorate, you have generated mistrust in the school system in the minds of many parents. You have aided members of our community to make up their minds to move to Virginia. You have done nothing for children! . . .

If you wish, you could change busing patterns by rewarding those communities which are now integrated . . . The City of Greenbelt is integrated within the limits set by Judge Kaufman, there could be busing within the city . . . (among its three schools). But you do not reward integration, you punish it by busing students 9 to 12 miles (from Greenbelt) . . .

You wish to close North End because of its low attendance and its old building. But the school you propose to maintain in Greenbelt is actually older than North End! What will prevent you from closing Center School in the future for the same reason? If you do, you will surely destroy the unique character that is Greenbelt. You have done it to other communities, like Palmer Park . . .

As for the low enrollment, the North End area is beginning to undergo a generation change. The homes within the area . . . are now within the financial reach of young couples who are just starting a family . . . If there is a school in the neighborhood, especially with the reputation North End now has, the children will appear.

The children of Greenbelt . . . have been shuttled from one school to another ever year . . . Why can't they attend Greenbelt schools which are underutilized? . . . You will eventually need the space that exists at North End.

The City of Greenbelt was designed for children. If you are going to bus children, I suggest that you consider busing within Greenbelt so that our schools will meet the standards set by Judge Kaufman, so that the existing structures are more efficiently utilized, so that the children have continuity and identification during their formative years, and so that you reward communities for integrating.

June Webb

According to school system data, the number of children enrolled in public elementary schools in 1973 was almost 83,000. The figure is expected to decline to about 62,000 before it levels off in the next four to five years.

To describe the decline in Prince George's County as a local expression of a nationwide phenomenon is a partial answer at best. At worst, it may be missing the point completely. The population of the county is expected to be greater in 1983 than it was in 1973. That the elementary school population will be a smaller percentage of the 1983 total than it was of the 1973 total can be anticipated. That it will be smaller by enough to reduce the elementary school population by 21,000 or 25%, defies logic.

Why has there been such a precipitous decline? Why should it be expected to continue? What has been the history of enrollments in private elementary schools in the past five years. Has there been "white flight"? Does it take the form of enrollment of children in private schools? In moving from the county? Is "white flight" an amalgam? To what extent does it exist of dissatisfaction with busing, with the length of bus trips, with the time at which buses must be taken, particularly by very young children, with the quality of education in Prince George's County generally, in particular schools?

If the board has information, it should share that information with the public. If it has not, then it should take steps immediately to acquire it. Depending on the particular question and answer, the board might deem certain actions to be in order. Among them may be the closing of some schools. I can accept that, but I will not accept it until I am satisfied that the

board has made an earnest effort to understand why there should be anticipated such a decline in enrollment.

Dan Tweed

President
Springhill Lake PTA

(After holding an information meeting to discuss the plans and their implications for the communities served by the school,) a survey of public opinion was made using questionnaires sent home with the children . . .

Residents of Springhill Lake (76%) feel that they deserve the implications of Plan 1—a walking school, because racial integration currently exists in Springhill Lake. They feel that Plan 2 punishes them for the racial imbalances that exist in other communities.

Residents of Seat Pleasant, on the other hand, get little out of Plan 1 (supported by 31%) other than a transition to a segregated local school. Plan 2 (preferred by 65%) appears to be the most favorable . . .

The choice between the two plans then involves a dilemma for our communities, a dilemma clearly brought out in the responses of parents who rejected both plans (7.7%). These parents were asked to give reasons for their rejection and to suggest alternatives. The responses were nearly uniform:

- Nearly all felt that Springhill Lake deserved a walking school on the basis of its current integrated residential pattern

- But no one wanted to promote the segregationist implications of Plan 1 for the Oakcrest school.

The most frequently suggested modification of the plans involved cross-busing between schools having the most extreme racial compositions.

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